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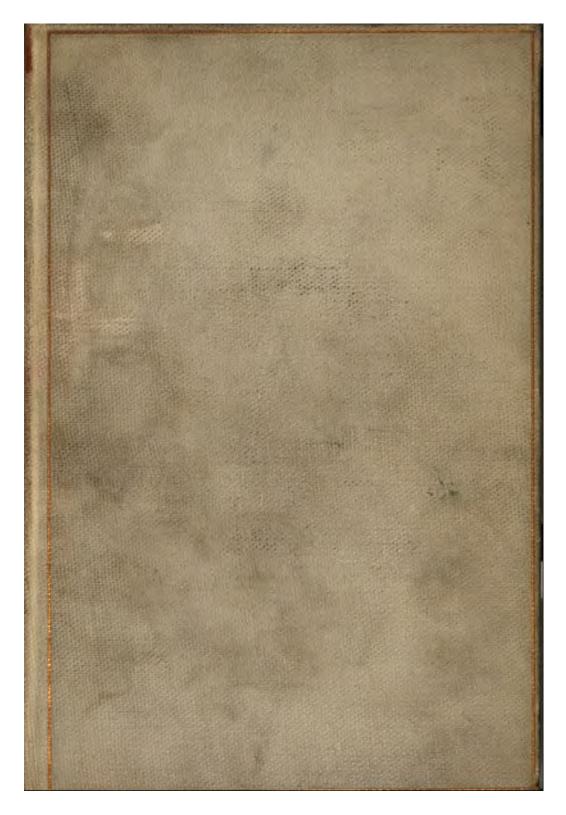
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PARAPHRASES AND TRANSLATIONS FROM THE GREEK

SANNAGE .

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PARAPHRASES AND TRANSLATIONS FROM THE GREEK

BY THE

EARL OF CROMER

London

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED

NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1903

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PARAPHRASES AND TRANSLATIONS FROM THE GREEK

BY THE

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PREFACE

I HAVE at times amused myself by endeavouring to render into English verse some of the epigrams of the Greek Anthology, and other pieces. It may possibly amuse others to read them. I have therefore, after much hesitation, decided to publish them.

The epigrams are, with a very few exceptions, selected from Mr. Mackail's Select Epigrams from the Greek Anthology. The classification and, in the great majority of cases, the title of each epigram are also borrowed from Mr. Mackail.

In making the translations from Theocritus and Moschus, I have used principally Kiessling's edition (London and Cambridge, 1829).

My very limited knowledge of Greek 1 would

¹ I was not taught Greek at school, and should probably have remained in complete ignorance of the language all my life had it not been for the accident that, when I first obtained a commission in the army in 1858, I was sent to

not, however, have permitted me to have undertaken any translations into verse, had I not been assisted by the excellent prose translations, in the case of the Anthology, of Mr. Mackail, and in the case of Theocritus and Moschus, of Mr. Andrew Lang.

As to the difficulty of translation, I cannot do better than quote from a letter of Mr. Mackail's. "What I think one always feels," Mr. Mackail wrote to me, "about translations from the Greek at the present day, is the extraordinary difficulty of retaining what (for want of a better word) may be called the dignity of the original, which is as marked a quality of Greek writing as its inimitable ease. It always remained, even when used by weak hands for trivial purposes, the language of Homer and Simonides; it went on wearing its robes with a certain high simplicity, even in the time of decay."

Even in far more skilled hands than my own the difficulty either of translating or of paraphrasing is, in fact, very great. Most of my versions are paraphrases rather than translations.

I have endeavoured to avoid the use of ornate

Corfu. There I acquired a fair colloquial knowledge of modern Greek. Being attracted by the language, I then learnt a certain amount of ancient Greek. In subsequent years I kept up the study, though after a very desultory fashion.

language. One of the many beauties of Greek poetry is its simplicity.

I beg any one who may do me the honour of glancing at this little volume to bear in mind that it is not the work of a scholar, or of even a very minor poet, but that of a Government official who, during the leisure moments of a somewhat busy life, has dabbled a little in Greek literature, and has occasionally amused himself by making verses—which is not always the same thing as writing poetry.

I have to acknowledge the valuable help I have received in the shape of suggestions and criticisms from several friends—notably from Mr. C. L. Graves, Mr. Mackail, and Mr. Harold Perry.

CROMER.

London, August 1903.

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ANTHOLOGY

I LOVE

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Ι

PRELUDE

POSIDIPPUS

%134.

Κεκροπὶ ἡαῖνε λάγυνε πολύδροσον ἰκμάδα Βάκχου, ἡαῖνε, δροσιζέσθω συμβολικὴ πρόποσις σιγάσθω Ζήνων ὁ σοφὸς κύκνος, ἄ τε Κλεάνθους μοῦσα μέλοι δ' ἡμῖν ὁ γλυκύπικρος "Ερως.

Let the jar of Athens drip,

Drench the feast as though with dew,
Here let each the wine-cup sip,
Boon companions, blithe and true.
Swan-like Zeno holds his peace,
Stoic verse gains no esteem,
Here our song shall never cease,
Sweetly-bitter Love the theme.

II

LAUS VENERIS

ASCLEPIADES

ήδὺ θέρους διψῶντι χιὰν ποτόν, ήδὺ δὲ ναύταις ἐκ χειμῶνος ἰδεῖν εἰαρινὸν στέφανον· ἥδιστον δ' ὁπόταν κρύψη μία τοὺς φιλέοντας χλαῖνα καὶ αἰνῆται Κύπρις ὑπ' ἀμφοτέρων.

Sweet in the sultry dog-days 'tis to drain
Thy sparkling vintage, O divine champagne!

Sweet to the sailor, when the vernal hour
Dispels the fear of winter's boisterous power.
But sweeter still when, with one cloak for cover,
The loved one echoes whispers of her lover.

¹ I feel that some apology is necessary for this obvious anachronism. Mr. Harold Perry points out to me that in what Macaulay (Works, vi. p. 614) calls Warren Hastings' "pleasing imitation" of Otium Divos rogat in patenti, "slow Mahrattas" and "hardier Sikhs" are made to do service for Horace's warlike Thracians and "quiver-graced" Medes. I do not mind erring in such illustrious company, and have, therefore, ventured to make Asclepiades vaunt the merits of champagne.

III

LOVE'S SWEETNESS

NOSSIS

Y.170,

άδιον οὐδὲν ἔρωτος, ἃ δ' ὅλβια, δεύτερα πάντα ἐστίν· ἀπὸ στόματος δ' ἔπτυσα καὶ τὸ μέλι· τοῦτο λέγει Νοσσίς· τίνα δ' ἀ Κύπρις οὐκ ἐφίλασεν, οὐκ οἰδεν κήνας τἄνθεα ποῖα ῥόδα.

PRETTY Nossis vows that she
Spurns the honey of the bee,
But that Cupid can distil
Sweets the cup of joy to fill.
Whom Venus hates can never know
What roses in her garden grow.

IV

LOVE AND THE SCHOLAR

MARCUS ARGENTARIUS

'Ησιόδου ποτέ βίβλον έμαις υπό χερσιν έλίσσων Πύρρην έξαπίνης είδον έπερχομένην· βίβλον δὲ ρίψας έπι γην χερί, ταυτ' έβόησα· ἔργα τί μοι παρέχεις, δ γέρον 'Ησίοδε;

As over Hesiod's page I pore,
Comes tripping in my lovely Katie.
I fling the book upon the floor,
And cry, "Old Hesiod, how I hate ye!"

V

THE REVELLER

MELEAGER

X11.117.

βεβλήσθω κύβος άπτε πορεύσομαι ήνίδε τόλμα.
οἰνοβαρές, τίν ἔχεις φροντίδα; κωμάσομαι.
κωμάσομαι; πῆ θυμὲ τρέπῃ; τί δ' ἔρωτι λογισμός;
ἄπτε τάχος. ποῦ δ' ἡ πρόσθε λόγων μελέτη;
ἐρρίφθω σοφίας ὁ πολὺς πόνος ἐν μόνον οἶδα
τοῦθ', ὅτι καὶ Ζηνὸς λῆμα καθεῖλεν Ἔρως.

Cast the dice, away I'll hie!
Whither, reveller, tell me whither?
Where my Lesbia's laughing eye
Calls to love, I'll hie me thither.
Study wastes the fleeting hour,
Wisdom is but toil and pain,
Zeus himself felt Cupid's power,
Love secured him with his chain.

VΙ

LOVE AND WINE

RUFINUS V.93

ὅπλισμαι πρὸς Ἐρωτα περὶ στέρνοισι λογισμόν, οὐδέ με νικήσει, μοῦνος ἐων πρὸς ἔνα, θνατὸς δ' ἀθανάτω συστήσομαι· ἢν δὲ βοηθὸν Βάκχον ἔχῃ, τί μόνος πρὸς δύ' ἐγω δύναμαι;

WITH Reason armed, I'll conquer Love, And bid a single god defiance. If Bacchus now my foe should prove, I'll yield me to the twin alliance.

VII

LOVE IN THE STORM

ASCLEPIADES

νίφε, χαλαζοβόλει, ποίει σκότος, αίθε, κεραύνου, πάντα τὰ πορφύροντ' ἐν χθονὶ σεῖε νέφη, ἢν γάρ με κτείνης, τότε παύσομαι· ἢν δέ μ' ἀφῆς ζῆν, καὶ διαθεὶς τούτων χείρονα, κωμάσομαι· ἔλκει γάρ μ' ὁ κρατῶν καὶ σοῦ θεός, ῷ ποτε πεισθείς, Ζεῦ, διὰ χαλκείων χρυσὸς ἔδυς θαλάμων.

RAIN and lighten, crash thy thunder!

If I'm slain, I cease to be,

Whilst I live, nought e'er shall sunder

Me from Love, or Love from me.

Thou, O Zeus, hast felt the power

Of the god we both obey,

Brazen though the bridal bower,

Love and money forced the way.



I LOVE

X

LOVE THE RUNAWAY

MELEAGER

V.17

κηρύσσω του Έρωτα του άγριου άρτι γαρ άρτι ορθρινος έκ κοίτας φχετ' αποπτάμενος.
ἔστι δ' ο παις γλυκύδακρυς, αείλαλος, ωκύς, αθαμβής, σιμα γελών, πτερόεις νώτα, φαρετροφόρος, πατρος δ' οὐκέτ' ἔχω φράζειν τίνος οὔτε γαρ αἰθήρ, οὐ χθών φησι τεκείν τον θρασύν, οὐ πέλαγος. πάντη γαρ καὶ πασιν ἀπέχθεται άλλ' ἐσορατε μή που νῦν ψυχαις ἄλλα τίθησι λίνα. καίτοι κείνος, ἰδού, περὶ φωλεόν οὔ με λέληθας, τοξότα, Ζηνοφίλας ὅμμασι κρυπτόμενος.

I CHASE wild Love; at earliest morn He flies away with bow and quiver, At times he's tearful and forlorn, Then changes as the shimmering river. He's fearless, chattering, quick and sly, His arrows adamant would pierce, He's hot, he's cold, he's pert, he's shy, And all at once he's mild and fierce. Whose son is he? Both Heaven and Earth, And loud-resounding Ocean's wave, Vow that they ne'er have given birth To one who makes the world a slave. The hateful boy! But have a care! His deadly arrow swiftly flies. I see him now. He's lurking there! He's ambushed in my Zoe's eyes!

XI

LOVE'S SYMPATHY

CALLIMACHUS X/1./34

ἔλκος ἔχων ὁ ξεῖνος ἐλάνθανεν· ὡς ἀνιηρὸν
πνεῦμα διὰ στηθέων, εἶδες, ἀνηγάγετο.
 τὸ τρίτον ἠνίδ' ἔπινε, τὰ δὲ ῥόδα φυλλοβολεῦντα
τῶνδρὸς ἀπὸ στεφάνων πάντ' ἐχέοντο χαμαί·
 ὅπτηται μέγα δή τι· μὰ δαίμονας οὐκ ἀπὸ ῥυσμοῦ
εἰκάζω, φωρὸς δ' ἔχνια φὼρ ἔμαθον.

He drained two full beakers with many a sigh,
And nervously clutched a third brimmer before him,
There was madness and rage in the glance of his eye,
He'd not have been known by the mother who bore him.
I knew not the wound, but I guessed at the cause
When he flung from his garland the roses and leaves,
Oft wounded by Cupid, I've bowed to his laws,
Set a cunning old thief on the track of the thieves.

XII

DEARER THAN DAY

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS V. 2-4/.

σώζεό, σοι μέλλων ἐνέπειν, παλίνορσον ἰωὴν ἀψ ἀνασειράζω καὶ πάλιν ἄγχι μένω, σὴν γὰρ ἐγὼ δασπλῆτα διάστασιν οἶά τε πικρὴν νύκτα καταπτήσσω τὴν ᾿Αχεροντιάδα· ἤματι γὰρ σέο φέγγος ὁμοίιον· ἀλλὰ τὸ μέν που ἄφθογγον, σὰ δέ μοι καὶ τὸ λάλημα φέρεις κείνο τὸ Σειρήνων γλυκερώτερον, ῷ ἔπι πᾶσαι εἰσὶν ἐμῆς ψυχῆς ἐλπίδες ἐκκρεμέες.

"FAREWELL!" I murmur, and then hold my breath,
Whilst, fondly lingering, by thy side I stay,
I shrink from parting as from cruel Death,
Thy light is glorious as the summer's day.
But day, though glorious, cannot tune a voice
To soothe my troubles or enchant my ear,
Whilst thy sweet Siren notes my soul rejoice
With music such as lovers yearn to hear.

XIII

AT COCKCROW

ΑΝΤΙΡΑΤΕΚ ΟΓ THESSALONICA
Υ. 3.
ὄρθρος ἔβη, Χρύσιλλα, πάλαι δ΄ ἢῷος ἀλέκτωρ
κηρύσσων φθονερὴν Ἡριγένειαν ἄγει·
ὀρνίθων ἔρροις φθονερώτατος, ὅς με διώκεις
οἴκοθεν εἰς πολλοὺς ἢιθέων ὀάρους.
γηράσκεις Τιθωνέ· τί γὰρ σὴν εὐνέτιν Ἡῶ
οὕτως ὀρθριδίην ἤλασας ἐκ λεχέων;

THE dawn, my love, stalks on in mantle grey,
The envious cock proclaims the birth of day.
Thy haste, Tithonus, serves too well to prove
Thou hast grown old, and carest no more for love,
Thou chasest lovely Dawn with rosy fingers
From out thy couch whilst night still softly lingers.

XIV

WAITING

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS Y,279.

δηθύνει Κλεοφάντις· δ δὲ τρίτος ἄρχεται ήδη λύχνος ὑποκλάζειν ήκα μαραινόμενος· αἴθε δὲ καὶ κραδίης πυρσὸς συναπέσβεπο λύχνω, μηδέ μ' ὑπ' ἀγρύπνοις δηρὸν ἔκαιε πόθοις. ἄ πόσα τὴν Κυθέρειαν ἐπώμοσεν ἔσπερος ήξειν· ἀλλ' οὕτ' ἀνθρώπων φείδεται οὕτε θεῶν.

CLEANTHE lingers, though the beckoning fire,
Rekindled, dies again and yet again.
Would that I too could quench my heart's desire,
And cast her image from my wakeful brain!
She swore full many a pretty Paphian oath
To keep the trysting; then she breaks her troth.

XV

WAITING IN VAIN

ASCLEPIADES

Y-150.

ώμολόγησ' ήξειν εἰς νύκτα μοι ἡ 'πιβόητος Νικώ, καὶ σεμνὴν ὤμοσε Θεσμοφόρον, κοὐχ ἥκει, φυλακὴ δὲ παροίχεται· ἄρ' ἐπιορκεῖν ἤθελε; τὸν λύχνον, παῖδες, ἀποσβέσατε.

Most surely did my Nico swear
At night she to my arms would fly;
The hour is past—no Nico here!
Ho! Quench the lamp! Did Nico lie?

XVI

THE SCORNED LOVER

ASCLEPIADES

Νύξ, σὲ γὰρ οὖκ ἄλλην μαρτύρομαι, οἶά μ' ὑβρίζει Πυθιὰς ἡ Νικοῦς οὖσα φιλεξαπάτης, κληθεὶς οὖκ ἄκλητος ἐλήλυθα· ταὖτὰ παθοῦσα σοὶ μέμψαιτ' ἐπ' ἐμοῖς στᾶσά ποτε προθύροις.

She bade me come, the traitress fair,
O Night, and now she dares to flout me!
Some day she'll crave my love. I swear
That then she'll have to go without me!

XVII

LA BELLE DAME SANS MERCI

AGATHIAS

V. 280

- η ρά γε καὶ σύ, Φίλιννα, φέρεις πόθον, η ρα καὶ αὐτη κάμνεις αὐαλέοις δμμασι τηκομένη;
- η συ μεν υπνον έχεις γλυκερώτατον, ημετέρης δε φροντίδος ουτε λόγος γίνεται ουτ ἀριθμός;
- εύρήσεις τὰ δμοια, τεὴν δ', ἀμέγαρτε, παρειὴν ἀθρήσω θαμινοῖς δάκρυσι τεγγομένην
- Κύπρις γάρ τὰ μὲν ἄλλα παλύγκοτος, ἐν δέ τι καλὸν ἔλλαχεν, ἐχθαίρειν τὰς σοβαρευομένας.

PHILINNA, dost thou waste and pine,
Though tearless are those lovely eyes?
Or is refreshing slumber thine,
And dost thou scoff at lovers' sighs?
Thou too shalt weep, my haughty dame,
Thou too shalt feel the hand of Fate.
Venus can this one virtue claim,
The scornful fair incurs her hate.

XVIII

AMANTIUM IRAE

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS

δικλίδας ἀμφετίναξεν ἐμοῖς Γαλάτεια προσώποις ἔσπερος, ὑβριστὴν μῦθον ἐπευξαμένη.
ὕβρις ἔρωτας ἔλυσε· μάτην ὅδε μῦθος ἀλᾶται·
ὕβρις ἐμὴν ἐρέθει μᾶλλον ἐρωμανίην·
ὅμοσα γὰρ λυκάβαντα μένειν ἀπάνευθεν ἐκείνης,
ὁ πόποι, ἀλλ' ἰκέτης πρώϊος εὐθὺς ἔβην.

My mistress cast me forth at eventide, Upbraiding me with words of scornful pride. Who says, "Scorn quenches Love," I call a liar, My lady's scorn inflames my own desire. I swore for a full year to stay away, Then sued for pardon at the break of day!

XIX

FLOWN LOVE

MARCUS ARGENTARIUS

Μήνη χρυσόκερως δέρκη τάδε καὶ πυριλαμπεῖς ἀστέρες οθς κόλποις 'Ωκεανὸς δέχεται, ὅς με μόνον προλιποῦσα μυρόπνοος ຜχετ' 'Αρίστη, ἐκταίην δ' εὐρεῖν τὴν μάγον οὐ δύναμαι· ἀλλ' ἔμπης αὐτὴν ζητήσομεν· ἢ ρ' ἐπιπέμψω Κύπριδος ἰχνευτὰς ἀργυρέους σκύλακας.

Thou Moon, that beam'st on many a lover!
Ye Stars that sink in Ocean's bed!
All things ye must perforce discover,
Ye know that my Ariste's fled.
'Tis six days since the fairy left me,
Yet still I strive to bring her back,
Of one chance she has not bereft me,
Love's silvery hounds are on her track.

١

XX

MOONLIGHT

PHILODEMUS

νυκτερινή, δίκερως, φιλοπάννυχε φαΐνε Σελήνη, φαΐνε, δι' εὐτρήτων βαλλομένη θυρίδων· αὕγαζε χρυσέην Καλλίστιον· ἐς τὰ φιλεύντων ἔργα κατοπτεύειν οὐ φθόνος ἀθανάτη. ὀλβίζεις καὶ τήνδε καὶ ἡμέας, οἶδα, Σελήνη, καὶ γὰρ σὴν ψυχὴν ἔφλεγεν Ἐνδυμίων.

SHINE, twy-horned Lady of the Night, shine on! Grace with thy light the fair Callistion,
Pour down thy silvery moonbeams from above,
And shed thy glory on our mutual love.
Immortal, thou mayest gaze and feel no shame,
Endymion set thine own fair soul aflame.

IXX

ROSE

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Y. 83

είθε ρόδον γενόμην υποπόρφυρον, δφρα με χερσίν ἀρσαμένη χαρίση στήθεσι χιονέοις.

O THAT I were a red rose, and might know. The grace of resting on thy breast of snow.

XXII

LOVE THE GAMBLER

MELEAGER

ματρός ἔτ' ἐν κόλποισιν ὁ νήπιος ὀρθρινὰ παίζων ἀστραγάλοις τοὐμὸν πνεῦμ' ἐκύβευσεν Ερως.

Love, lying on his mother's lap,

Though still a babe, with dice did play.

E'en then he wrought me this mishap—

He cast, and played my life away.

IIIXX

DRIFTING

MELEAGER

V. 190

κῦμα τὸ πικρὸν Ἐρωτος ἀκοίμητοί τε πνέοντες Ζῆλοι καὶ κώμων χειμέριον πέλαγος, ποῦ φέρομαι; πάντη δὲ φρενῶν οἴακες ἀφεῖνται· ἢ πάλι τὴν τρυφερὴν Σκύλλαν ἐποψόμεθα.

HITHER and thither am I cast
By Love's fell wave. A jealous blast
At times blows hard, and then I shift
My sails, or let the vessel drift.
Tossed on a wintry sea of drink,
I know not if I float or sink.
I have no helm to guide my way,
Scylla stands waiting for her prey.

XXIV

LOVE'S RELAPSES

MELEAGER

ψυχὴ δυσδάκρυτε, τί σοι τὸ πεπανθὲν "Ερωτος τραθμα διὰ σπλάγχνων αθθις ἀναφλέγεται; μή, μὴ πρός σε Διός, μὴ πρὸς Διός, ὧ φιλάβουλε, κινήσης τέφρη πθρ ὑπολαμπόμενον αὐτίκα γάρ, λήθαργε κακῶν, πάλιν εἴ σε φυγοθσαν λήψετ' "Ερως, εὐρὼν δραπέτιν αἰκίσεται.

Infatuate youth, again so soon to feel
The wound which Time and Absence sought to heal!
Nay, nay, for God's sake! Temper thy desire.
The ashes smoulder—cherish not the fire.
For, should'st thou fly, Love in pursuit will start,
And, heedless of past pain, will wring thine heart.

XXV

LOVE THE BALL-PLAYER

MELEAGER Y. 2/4

σφαιριστὰν τὸν Ἐρωτα τρέφω, σοὶ δ΄, Ἡλιοδώρα, βάλλει τὰν ἐν ἐμοὶ παλλομέναν κραδίαν. ἀλλ' ἄγε συμπαίκταν δέξαι Πόθον' εἰ δ' ἀπὸ σεῦ με ῥίψαις, οὐκ οἴσω τὰν ἀπάλαιστρον ὕβριν.

> LOVE plays at ball and throws to thee The heart, my dear, that throbs in me. Take thou his playmate, sweet Desire, And let him fan the mutual fire. Thou can'st not then cast me away, The rules of Love forbid false play.

XXVI

MOTH AND CANDLE

MELEAGER
V. 5-7.

την περινηχομένην ψυχην αν πολλάκι καίης φεύξετ', Έρως καὐτή, σχέτλι', έχει πτέρυγας.

My soul, O Love, has wings like thee, Scorch it too much, and it will flee.

XXVII

LOVE THE SLAYER

MELEAGER

λίσσομ', Έρως, τὸν ἄγρυπνον ἐμοὶ πόθον Ἡλιοδώρας κοίμισον αἰδεσθεὶς Μοῦσαν ἐμὴν ἰκέτιν·
ναὶ γὰρ δὴ τὰ σὰ τόξα, τὰ μὴ δεδιδαγμένα βάλλειν ἄλλον, ἀεὶ δ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ πτηνὰ χέοντα βέλη, εἰ καί με κτείναις λείψω φωνὴν προϊέντα γράμματ'· Έρωτος δρα, ξεῖνε, μιαιφονίην.

O TYRANT LOVE, list to my suppliant lay!
On me alone thou pourest all thy darts,
To me thou bringest torture and dismay,
And mercifully sparest other hearts.
I prithee, pity then my sleepless plight!
Charm Heliodora's vision from my brain.
For, if I'm killed, with dying hand I'll write:
"Look, stranger, on the man whom Love has slain!"

XXVIII

LOVE AT AUCTION

MELEAGER

V.178.

πωλείσθω καὶ ματρὸς ἔτ' ἐν κόλποισι καθεύδων,
πωλείσθω· τί δέ μοι τὸ θρασὺ τοῦτο τρέφειν;
καὶ γὰρ σιμὸν ἔφυ καὶ ὑπόπτερον, ἄκρα δ' ὄνυξιν
κνίζει, καὶ κλαῖον πολλὰ μεταξὺ γελᾳ·
πρὸς δ' ἔτι λοιπὸν ἄτρεπτον, ἀείλαλον, ὀξὲ δεδορκός,
ἄγριον οὐδ' αὐτῆ μητρὶ φίλη τιθασόν,
πάντα τέρας· τοίγαρ πεπράσεται· εἴ τις ἀπόπλους
ἔμπορος ἀνεῖσθαι παῖδα θέλει προσίτω.
καίτοι λίσσετ' ἰδοὺ δεδακρυμένος· οὔ σ' ἔτι πωλῶ·

θάρσει Ζηνοφίλα σύντροφος ώδε μένε.

Whilst slumbering on his mother's breast
Let Love be sold—I will not rear him.
He's useless, tried by any test
That can to men or maids endear him.
He's snub-nosed, winged, his nails can ravage,
He laughs, he's wild as any hawk.
To his own mother he's a savage,
And then he never stops his talk.
Perchance some sailor wants a slave,
Seafaring men are always bold,
But little is the price I crave,
To him the monster shall be sold.
Yet stay! He begs me to desist,
And tries to mitigate my hate.
He weeps. His tears I can't resist.

Let him remain and live with Kate.

XXIX

THE BURDEN OF YOUTH

ASCLEPIADES

οὐκ εἴμ' οὐδ' ἐτέων δύο κεἴκοσι, καὶ κοπιῶ ζῶν·
ἄρωτες, τί κακὸν τοῦτο; τί με φλέγετε;
ἢν γὰρ ἐγώ τι πάθω, τί ποιήσετε; δῆλον, Ἐρωτες,
ὧς τὸ πάρος παίξεσθ' ἄφρονες ἀστραγάλοις.

Though not two-and-twenty I'm weary of life, Oh Love! why misuse me and give me such pain? When I'm dead, will you cease from your pitiless strife? No. You'll rattle your dice-box o'er those who remain.

XXX

LOVE'S MASTERDOM

MELEAGER V. 176.

δεινὸς *Ερως, δεινός· τί δὲ τὸ πλέον, ἢν πάλιν εἴπω καὶ πάλιν, οἰμώζων πολλάκι, δεινὸς *Ερως; ἢ γὰρ ὁ παῖς τούτοισι γελᾳ, καὶ πυκνὰ κακισθεὶς ἤδεται, ἢν δ' εἴπω λοίδορα, καὶ τρέφεται· θαῦμα δέ μοι, πῶς ἄρα διὰ γλαυκοῖο φανεῖσα κύματος, ἐξ ὑγροῦ, Κύπρι, σὺ πῦρ τέτοκας.

Again I raise my sad lament.

But what avails it, when each sigh
To him is food and nourishment?

He mocks me when I weep and moan.

Scorched by his darts, I oft inquire
How Venus, born of Ocean's foam,
Herself gave birth to burning fire?

XXXI

LOVE THE CONQUEROR

MELEAGER

X11.48.

κείμαι· λὰξ ἐπίβαινε κατ' αὐχένος, ἄγριε δαίμον·
οἶδά σε, ναὶ μὰ θεούς, καὶ βαρὺν ὅντα φέρειν·
οἶδα καὶ ἔμπυρα τόξα· βαλὼν δ' ἐπ' ἐμὴν φρένα πυρσοὺς
οὐ φλέξεις ἤδη· πᾶσα γάρ ἐστι τέφρη.

AH, cruel Love! I know thy might, Yet still thy fiery darts I'll hinder. Thou canst not set my soul alight, Already it is burnt to cinder.

II DEDICATION

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XXXII

TO APHRODITE, BY LAIS

PLATO VI./.

- ή σοβαρὸν γελάσασα καθ' Ἑλλάδος, ή τὸν ἐραστῶν ἐσμὸν ἐνὶ προθύροις Λαίς ἔχουσα νέων, τῆ Παφίη τὸ κάτοπτρον· ἐπεὶ τοίη μὲν ὁρᾶσθαι οὐκ ἐθέλω, οἵη δ' ἢν πάρος οὐ δύναμαι.
- I, Lais, who enthralled the Grecian youth,

 To Venus give this glass, which tells the truth.

 I will not face the tell-tale mirror more,

 And why? I see not what I saw of yore.

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III EPITAPHS

XXXIII

ON THE SPARTANS AT THERMOPYLAE¹

SIMONIDES

V11,249

δ ξείν', ἄγγειλον Λακεδαιμονίοις ὅτι τῆδε κείμεθα τοῖς κείνων ῥήμασι πειθόμενοι.

O STRANGER! say that, honouring her behest, Here the remains of Sparta's warriors rest.

1 There are a great many translations of this celebrated epitaph. Symonds (The Greek Poets, ii. p. 289) says that none are "very good." "The difficulty lies in the word βήμασι. Is this equivalent to βήτραις, as Cicero, who renders it by legibus, seems to think? Or is it the same as orders?" So far as the translation of the word is concerned, I venture to suggest "behest," but I greatly doubt if any translation can do justice to the original. I am very conscious of the extent to which the version given above fails in this respect.

XXXIV

THE PALL OF LEONIDAS

PHILIPPUS /x.295.

πουλύ Λεωνίδεω κατίδων δέμας αὐτοδάϊκτον
Εξερξης εχλαίνου φάρει πορφορέω.
κήκ νεκύων δ' ήχησεν ὁ τᾶς Σπάρτας πολύς ήρως·
οὐ δέχομαι προδόταις μισθὸν ὀφειλόμενον·
ἀσπὶς ἐμοὶ τύμβου κόσμος μέγας· αἰρε τὰ Περσῶν
χήξω κεἰς ᾿Αἴδην ὡς Λακεδαιμόνιος.

The Persian threw his mantle o'er the grave
Whereon his shame was writ.
Then did the hero turn,
And proudly cried, "I spurn
Your Asian tribute. Let my shield and glaive,
Of which in sunlit earth you felt the might,
Be still my pall in death's eternal night.
I lived a Spartan. In the realms beneath
I still am true to Sparta, e'en in death."

XXXV

ON THE DEAD IN AN UNKNOWN BATTLE

MNASALCAS V11,242,

οίδε πάτραν, πολύδακρυν ἐπ' αὐχένι δεσμον ἔχουσαν, ρυόμενοι δνοφεράν άμφεβάλοντο κόνιν, άρνυνται δ' άρετας αίνον μέγαν. άλλά τις άστων τούσδ' ἐσιδων θνάσκειν τλάτω ὑπὲρ πατρίδος.

FROM off their native land they struck the servile chain, Nor struck in vain.

In dust they lie.

Mark, patriot, well! Thine own dear native land Will send forth her command. Then dare to die!

IVXXX

ON THE DEAD IN A BATTLE IN BOEOTIA

AUTHOR UNKNOWN VII. 245

δ Χρόνε παντοίων θνητοῖς πανεπίσκοπε δαῖμον,
 ἄγγελος ἡμετέρων πᾶσι γενοῦ παθέων,
 ὡς ἱερὰν σώζειν πειρώμενοι Ἑλλάδα χώρην
 Βοιωτῶν κλεινοῖς θνήσκομεν ἐν δαπέδοις.

O Time, that seest all and canst not die! Let all men know why in this tomb we lie. To save our sacred country we were slain, And lie for ever on Boeotia's plain.

IIVXXX

ON A SLAIN WARRIOR

ANACREON Y11.160

καρτερὸς ἐν πολέμοις Τιμόκριτος οὖ τόδε σᾶμα· "Αρης δ' οὐκ ἀγαθῶν φείδεται, ἀλλὰ κακῶν.

Timocritus lies here. Mars takes the brave, And spares the coward for a nameless grave.

XXXVIII

ON A SHIPWRECKED SAILOR

PLATO
Υ/1. 263ναυηγοῦ τάφος εἰμι· ὁ δ' ἀντίον ἐστὶ γεωργοῦ·
ὡς ἀλὶ καὶ γαίη ξυνὸς ὕπεστ' ᾿Ατδης.

Shipwrecked, I lost my life upon the sea.

Who sleeps beside me gained his daily bread
Upon a farm; but, following Death's decree,
Sailors and landsmen meet amongst the dead.

XXXIX

ON A SHIPWRECKED SAILOR

THEODORIDES

V/1.282.

ναυηγοῦ τάφος εἰμί· σὰ δὲ πλέε· καὶ γὰρ ὅθ' ἡμεῖς ἀλόμεθ', αἱ λοιπαὶ νῆες ἐποντοπόρουν.

SHIPWRECKED was I, but fear not thou to sail. When we were lost, others rode out the gale.

XL

ON A SHIPWRECKED SAILOR

AUTHOR UNKNOWN V/'. ?/r

ναυτίλε, μη πεύθου τίνος ενθάδε τύμβος ὅδ΄ εἰμί, ἀλλ' αὐτὸς πόντου τύγχανε χρηστοτέρου.

No matter who I was; but may the sea To you prove kindlier than it was to me.

XLI

ON THE EMPTY TOMB OF ONE LOST AT SEA

GLAUCUS

Y11,285

οὐ κόνις οὐδ' ὀλίγον πέτρης βάρος, ἀλλ' Ἐρασίππου ἡν ἐσορậς αὕτη πᾶσα θάλασσα τάφος· ἄλετο γὰρ σὺν νηί· τὰ δ' ὀστέα πού ποτ' ἐκείνου πύθεται, αἰθυίαις γνωστὰ μόναις ἐνέπειν.

No flimsy stone stands o'er Nicanor dead,
With ship and crew he sank beneath the surge.
The weight of ocean lies above his head,
The screaming sea-gulls sang his funeral dirge.

XLII

ON THE EMPTY TOMB OF ONE LOST AT SEA

DAMAGETUS

411.497

καί ποτε Θυμώδης, τὰ παρ' ἐλπίδα κήδεα κλαίων, παιδί Λύκφ κενεόν τοῦτον έχευε τάφον· οὐδὲ γὰρ ὀθνείην ἔλαχεν κόνιν, ἀλλά τις ἀκτή Θυνιάς, ή νήσων Ποντιάδων τις έχει, ένθ' ο γέ που πάντων κτερέων ἄτερ ὀστέα φαίνει γυμνός ἐπ' ἀξείνου κείμενος αἰγιαλοῦ.

Unlooked-for woes the cruel gods have sent
To old Thymodes; a dear son he weeps.
To Lycus has he reared this monument,
Unknowing where the wave-tossed body sleeps.
For him no grave was dug with loving hand,
No train of mourners decked his funeral pile.
His bones lie bleaching on a foreign strand,
On some far Thynian beach or Pontic isle.

XLIII

ON A WAYSIDE TOMB

NICIAS

7x.3/5

ίζευ ὑπ' αἰγείροισιν, ἐπεὶ κάμες, ἐνθάδ', ὁδῖτα, καὶ πίθ' ἀσσον ἰὼν πίδακος ἀμετέρας, μνᾶσαι δὲ κράναν καὶ ἀπόπροθι, ἀν ἐπὶ Γίλλφ Σῖμος ἀποφθιμένφ παιδὶ παριδρύεται.

Rest, traveller, beneath these quivering leaves,
Drink of the spring, and, in all future years,
Remember that a sorrowing father grieves,
And builds a fountain where he sheds his tears.

XLIV

ON A BABY

Αυτήος υνκνοων Αυτή Το Βειντι ΙΙ (Ευγενιση) το Αντί, το μ. 3 ? ? ἄρτι με γευόμενον ζωᾶς βρέφος ήρπασε δαίμων οὐκ οἶδ' εἴτ' ἀγαθῶν αἴτιος εἴτε κακῶν ἀπλήρωτ' 'Αΐδα, τί με νήπιον ήρπασας ἐχθρῶς; τί σπεύδεις; οὐ σοὶ πάντες ὀφειλόμεθα;

DEATH waited on me at my birth,
And snatched me from the joys of earth.
I know not if 'twere well for me
Or ill, that pitiless decree.
Insatiate Death! Why move so fast?
Are we not all thine own at last?

XLV

ON A CHILD OF FIVE

LUCIAN

παίδά με πενταέτηρον ἀκηδέα θυμὸν ἔχοντα νηλειὴς ᾿Αΐδης ἥρπασε Καλλίμαχον· ἀλλά με μὴ κλαίοις· καὶ γὰρ βιότοιο μετέσχον παύρου, καὶ παύρων τῶν βιότοιο κακῶν.

At five years old my infant spirit fled,
But mourn me not, although my time was brief.
I knew no earthly joys, but with the dead,
I glory that I knew no earthly grief.

XLVI

FREEDOM IN DEATH

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Ζωσίμη ή πρὶν ἐοῦσα μόνφ τῷ σώματι δούλη καὶ τῷ σώματι νῦν εὖρεν ἐλευθερίην.

ZOSIME, cursed with serfdom from the womb, Found Life in Death, and freedom in the tomb.

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IV LITERATURE AND ART

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XLVII

ERINNA

LEONIDAS OF TARENTUM

V11.13

παρθενικήν νεαοιδόν εν ύμνοπόλοισι μέλισσαν "Ηρινναν Μουσων ἄνθεα δρεπτομέναν "Αιδας εἰς ὑμέναιον ἀνάρπασεν· ἡ ἡα τόδ' ἔμφρων εἶπ' ἐτύμως ἀ παῖς· βάσκανος ἔσσ' 'Ατδα.

ERINNA, songstress of the honeyed lay, Was wooed by Death, and could not say him nay. Still the wise maiden, with her parting breath, True to the Muses, sang "Ah! envious Death!"

XLVIII

ANACREON'S GRAVE

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

V11.28.

δ ξένε, τόνδε τάφον τὸν 'Ανακρείοντος ἀμείβων σπεῖσόν μοι παριών· εἰμὶ γὰρ οἰνοπότης.

Pour a libation, stranger, as you pass. It is Anacreon's tomb. He loved his glass.

XLIX

POPULAR SONGS

LUCILIUS

≯5733

τέθνηκ' Εὐτυχίδης ὁ μελογράφος οἱ κατὰ γαῖαν φεύγετ' ἔχων φίδὰς ἔρχεται Εὐτυχίδης καὶ κιθάρας αὐτῷ διετάξατο συγκατακαῦσαι δώδεκα, καὶ κίστας εἰκοσίπεντε νόμων. νῦν ὑμῖν ὁ Χάρων ἐπελήλυθε ποῖ τις ἀπέλθη λοιπόν, ἐπεὶ χἄδην Εὐτυχίδης κατέχει;

EUTYCHIDES is gone below.

Fly, shades! 'Tis well that ye should know He brings some twenty chests of verse,
And lyres twelve. They'll prove a curse.

Where can poor mortals rest in peace
Whene'er their earthly labours cease,
Now that Eutychides pervades

With song and lyre the very shades?

L

THE REED PEN

AUTHOR UNKNOWN
/X./62.

ήμην άχρεῖον κάλαμος φυτόν, ἐκ γὰρ ἐμεῖο
οὐ σῦκ', οὐ μῆλον φύεται, οὐ σταφυλή·
ἀλλά μ' ἀνὴρ ἐμύησ' Ἑλικωνίδα, λεπτὰ τορήσας
χείλεα καὶ στεινὸν ροῦν ὀχετευσάμενος,
ἐκ δὲ τοῦ εὖτε πίοιμι μέλαν ποτόν, ἔνθεος οἶα
πᾶν ἔπος ἀφθέγκτφ τῷδε λαλῶ στόματι.

The luscious fig hung pendent on the tree,

The clustering grape gave wine to fire and cheer.

Meanwhile I grew, in staid humility,

An humble reed upon the wind-swept mere.

Man pierced my lips, and I became the slave

Of kings and poets, orators and sages.

With voiceless mouth I speak, and what they gave

I give in turn to all succeeding ages.

LI

ALEXANDRIANISM

CALLIMACHUS

έχθαίρω τὸ ποίημα τὸ κυκλικόν, οὐδὲ κελεύθω χαίρω, τίς πολλοὺς ὧδε καὶ ὧδε φέρει· μισῶ καὶ περίφοιτον ἐρώμενον, οὕτ' ἀπὸ κρήνης πίνω· σικχαίνω πάντα τὰ δημόσια.

I HATE the road that all men tread,
The cyclic verse I doom to perish.

My direst curses on the head
Of all that most men love and cherish.
All these things rouse my gall and bile,
I hate the common fountain's savour,
I hate the Alexandrian style,
But most I hate the people's favour.

LII

ON A LOVE PLOUGHING

MOSCHUS Augh. Phys. 200.

λαμπάδα θεὶς καὶ τόξα, βοηλάτιν είλετο ῥάβδον οὖλος Έρως, πήρην δ' είχε κατωμαδίην, καὶ ζεύξας ταλαεργὸν ὑπὸ ζυγὸν αὐχένα ταύρων ἔσπειρεν Δηοῦς αὔλακα πυροφόρον, είπε δ' ἄνω βλέψας αὐτῷ Διί· πλῆσον ἀρούρας, μή σε τὸν Εὐρώπης βοῦν ὑπ' ἄροτρα βάλω.

His torch and bow renounced, the potent god
Of Love binds patient oxen to the yoke,
With tender hands he wields the ploughman's rod,
And turns a furrow at each feeble stroke.
"O Zeus!" he cried, "now fill my granary full,
Yield tenfold produce to the seed I sow.
Bethink thee that erstwhile thou wast a bull,
Deny me, and I'll yoke thee to my plough."

LIII

ON A STATUE OF THE ARMED VENUS

Αυτήρα Unknown
Αιωή: Θία 174
Παλλάς τὰν Κυθέρειαν ἔνοπλον ἔειπεν ἰδοῦσα,
Κύπρι, θέλεις οὕτως ἐς κρίσιν ἐρχόμεθα;
ἡ δ' ἀπαλὸν γελάσασα· τί μοι σάκος ἀντίον αἴρειν;
εἰ γυμνὴ νικῶ, πῶς ὅταν ὅπλα λάβω;

"ARMED at the trial wilt thou take thy place?"
Asked Pallas, sternly. "Aye, my naked charms,"
Smiled Venus, "conquer all the human race;
How will it be when I resort to arms?"

LIV

ON THE CNIDIAN VENUS OF PRAXITELES

AUTHOR UNKNOWN
-4 .164. Πον. 142.

ά Κύπρις τὰν Κύπριν ἐνὶ Κνίδφ εἶπεν ἰδοῦσα·
φεῦ, φεῦ, ποῦ γυμνὴν εἶδέ με Πραξιτέλης;

THE laughter-loving Queen of Pleasures
Gazed at the work and blushing said,
"How could a man know all my treasures—
A man to whom I ne'er was wed?"

LV

ON' A SLEEPING ARIADNE

Αυτήοκ υνκνόων Α: Ακ. 145. ξείνοι, λαινέας μη ψαύετε τᾶς ᾿Αριάδνας μη καὶ ἀναθρώσκη Θησέα διζομένη.

Touch not the stone lest Ariadne move, And start again to seek her long-lost love.

LVI

ON A NIOBE BY PRAXITELES

Author unknown

έκ ζωής με θεοὶ τεῦξαν λίθον· ἐκ δὲ λίθοιο ζωὴν Πραξιτέλης ἔμπαλιν εἰργάσατο.

THE gods turned me to stone, but now I live. Praxiteles could life to marble give.

LVII

DIANA OF EPHESUS

ANTIPATER

καὶ κρανάας Βαβυλώνος ἐπίδρομον ἄρμασι τεῖχος,
καὶ τὸν ἐπ' ᾿Αλφειῷ Ζᾶνα κατηυγασάμην,
κάπων τ' αἰώρημα, καὶ Ἡελίοιο Κολοσσόν,
καὶ μέγαν αἰπεινᾶν Πυραμίδων κάματον,
μνᾶμα τε Μαυσωλοῖο πελώριον ἀλλ' ὅτ' ἐσεῖδον
᾿Αρτέμιδος νεφέων ἄχρι θέοντα δόμον,
κεῖνα μὲν ἡμαύρετο τί κεῖνα δέ; νόσφιν Ὀλύμπου
ὅΑλιος οὐδέν πω τοῖον ἐπηυγάσατο.

On Babylon's walls the swift chariots can race,
At Rhodes the Colossus may hallow an isle,
The statue of Zeus is a marvel of grace,
The folly of Pharaoh frowns down on the Nile.
All these have I seen, but when awestruck I gaze
On Artemis poised o'er her silvery shrine,
I murmur: "Chaste Goddess! I worship and praise!
"The sun never shines on such glories as thine."



V RELIGION

\$2、"阿斯特尔尔克尔尔",中国共和国安全中心

LVIII

THE SERVICE OF GOD

Αυτήοκ υνκνοων Αντά στο βαι εί (Conghay long, 11. 26-9.274, την Διὸς ἀμφίπολόν με Χελιδόνα, την ἐπὶ βωμοῖς σπένδειν ἀθανάτων γρηϋν ἐπισταμένην, εὔτεκνον, ἀστονάχητον, ἔχει τάφος οὐ γὰρ ἀμαυρῶς δαίμονες ἡμετέρην ἔβλεπον εὐσεβίην.

Priestess of Zeus, I worshipped at his shrine,
In my old age to him I raised my prayer.
With children blessed, no cankering grief was mine,
My simple piety was free from care.
Now in the tomb, where others cease from strife,
And seek repose from labour, tears, and sighs,
I gain the guerdon of a blameless life,
The gods beheld my work with undimmed eyes.

LIX

THE WATER OF PURITY

Αυτήος υνκνοψη χ/ν.7/

ἀγνὸς κεἰς τέμενος καθαροῦ, ξένε, δαίμονος ἔρχου ψυχήν, νυμφαίου νάματος ἀψάμενος: ὡς ἀγαθοῖς κεῖται βαιὴ λιβάς, ἄνδρα δὲ φαῦλον οὐδ' ἀν ὁ πῶς νίψαι νάμασιν 'Ωκεανός.

STRANGER, approach, if with a hallowed soul
Thou seek'st the precincts of the awful shrine.
Take virgin water from the sacred bowl,
The temple shelters purity divine.
If thine own conscience tells a virtuous tale,
A few scant drops will make thee pure and glad,
But for the wicked nothing can avail,
For learn, not Ocean's self can cleanse the bad.

VI NATURE

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LX

PASTORAL SOLITUDE

SATYRUS

Ανιτά, Θίαν. 153,
ποιμενίαν ἄγλωσσος ἀν' ὀργάδα μέλπεται 'Αχὼ
ἀντίθρουν πτανοῖς ὑστερόφωνον ὅπα.

On this green slope resound no human words, Echo repeats the music of the birds.

LXI

THE RELEASE OF THE OX

ADDAEUS

Y1. 228

αὔλακι καὶ γήρα τετρυμένου ἐργατίνην βοῦν ᾿Αλκων οὐ φονίην ἤγαγε πρὸς κοπίδα, αἰδεσθεὶς ἔργων· ὁ δέ που βαθέη ἐνὶ ποίη μυκηθμοῖς ἀρότρου τέρπετ᾽ ἐλευθερίη.

The ox, rewarded for his pains,
Is spared the butcher's cruel stroke.
Now, lowing on the grassy plains,
He hymns his freedom from the yoke.

LXII

THE SHRINE BY THE SEA

ANYTE

Κύπριδος οὖτος ὁ χῶρος, ἐπεὶ φίλον ἔπλετο τήνα αἰὲν ἀπ' ἠπείρου λαμπρὸν ὁρῆν πέλαγος ὅφρα φίλον ναύτησι τελῆ πλόον ἀμφὶ δὲ πόντος δειμαίνει, λιπαρὸν δερκόμενος ξόανον.

SEAWARDS the gentle Cyprian loves to gaze,
And call the sailor back to Love and Home.
Trembling, the loud-resounding billows praise
The goddess fair, who rose from out the foam.

LXIII

THE COMPLAINT OF THE CICALA

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

τίπτε με τὸν φιλέρημον ἀναιδέϊ ποιμένες ἄγρη τέττιγα δροσερῶν ἔλκετ' ἀπ' ἀκρεμόνων, τὴν Νυμφέων παροδῖτιν ἀηδόνα κἤματι μέσσφ οὕρεσι καὶ σκιεραῖς ξουθὰ λαλεῦντα νάπαις; ἤνίδε καὶ κίχλην καὶ κόσσυφον, ἤνίδε τόσσους ψᾶρας, ἀρουραίης ἄρπαγας εὐπορίης· καρπῶν δηλητῆρας ἐλεῦν θέμις· ὅλλυτ' ἐκείνους· φύλλων καὶ χλοερῆς τίς φθόνος ἐστὶ δρόσου;

Why, shepherds, why in cruel sport pursue
The midday songster of the hill and dale?
From silvery sprays I dash away the dew,
The Nymphs call me their roadside nightingale.
The thrushes, blackbirds, and a thievish throng
Ravage thy fruit and plunder all thy sheaves.
Destroy them, they of right to thee belong.
Grudge not the harmless cricket dew and leaves.

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VII THE FAMILY

LXIV

THE GIRL'S CUP

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS

/Χ. 7/0

χεῖλος ᾿Ανικήτεια τὸ χρύσεον εἰς ἐμὲ τέγγει·
ἀλλὰ παρασχοίμην καὶ πόμα νυμφίδιον.

ARISTE wets her golden lip in me. If Hymen please, her bridal cup I'll be.

LXV

. A ROSE IN WINTER

CRINAGORAS

V1.345.

εἴαρος ἤνθει μὲν τὸ πρὶν ῥόδα, νῦν δ' ἐνὶ μέσσφ χείματι πορφυρέας ἐσχάσαμεν κάλυκας σἢ ἐπιμειδήσαντα γενεθλίῃ ἄσμενα τἢδε ἤοῖ, νυμφιδίων ἀσσοτάτῃ λεχέων· καλλίστης στεφθῆναι ἐπὶ κροτάφοισι γυναικὸς λώῖον ἢ μίμνειν ἤρινὸν ἤέλιον.

Roses till now have blossomed in the spring,
Our crimson cups burst forth midst winter's snow.
On this, thy birthday morn, we hither bring
A smiling tribute to adorn thy brow.
Thy bridal hour is near, and with delight
For thy fair forehead we provide a wreath,
'Tis better thus to bloom in winter's night,
Than to await the tardy summer's breath.

LXVI

GOOD-BYE TO CHILDHOOD

AUTHOR UNKNOWN Y/. 2 82.

Τιμαρέτα πρὸ γάμοιο τὰ τύμπανα τήν τ' ἐρατεινὴν σφαῖραν, τόν τε κόμας ῥύτορα κεκρύφαλον, τάς τε κόρας, Λιμνάτι, κόρα κόρα, ὡς ἐπιεικές, ἄνθετο, καὶ τὰ κορᾶν ἐνδύματ' ᾿Αρτέμιδι. Λατώα, τὰ δὲ παιδὸς ὑπὲρ χέρα Τιμαρετείας θηκαμένα σώζοις τὰν ὁσίαν ὁσίως.

Her tambourine and pretty ball,

Her dolls she left, with all their dresses,
Her playthings, whether great or small,

The net which held her golden tresses.

Sweet Chloe, on her marriage day,

Renounced her happy childhood's pleasures.

A maid should to a maiden pray,

The Limnian Queen received her treasures.

Daughter of Leto! listen as we pray,

Shield her, and keep her pure from day to day.

LXVII

NUNC DIMITTIS

JOANNES BARBUCALLUS

ές πόσιν ἀθρήσασα παρ' ἐσχατίης λίνα μοίρης ἤνεσα καὶ χθονίους, ἤνεσα καὶ ζυγίους, τοὺς μέν, ὅτι ζωὸν λίπον ἀνέρα, τοὺς δ' ὅτι τοῖον· ἀλλὰ πατὴρ μίμνοι παισὶν ἐφ' ἡμετέροις.

HOLDING my husband's hand with ebbing breath, I praised the gods of Marriage and of Death, These that I gave my love to such as he, Those that he lives our children's stay to be.

LXVIII

THE WIFE'S PRAYER

Sweet Cyprian Queen, I vow to thee
Thy marble image. Hear me plead.
Give in return thy grace to me,
My husband's love is all I need.

LXIX

BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

JOANNES BARBUCALLUS

Πειθοί καὶ Παφία πακτάν καὶ κηρία σίμβλων τᾶς καλυκοστεφάνου νυμφίος Εὐρυνόμας 'Ερμοφίλας ἀνέθηκεν ὁ βωκόλος· ἀλλὰ δέχεσθε ἀντ' αὐτᾶς πακτάν, ἀντ' ἐμέθεν τὸ μέλι.

THE neat-herd and his bride, Eurynome, Bring cheese of cream and honey of the bee. May these Persuasion and the Paphian please, From him take honey, and from her take cheese.

LXX

HOUSEHOLD HAPPINESS

AGATHIAS

V1.59

τη Παφίη στεφάνους, τη Παλλάδι την πλοκαμίδα, ᾿Αρτέμιδι ζώνην ἄνθετο Καλλιρόη · εὕρετο γὰρ μνηστήρα τὸν ήθελε, καὶ λάχεν ήβην σώφρονα, καὶ τεκέων ἄρσεν ἔτικτε γένος.

CALLIRHOE brings the Paphian fair
These flowers; Love a wooer found her.
Let Pallas take a tress of hair,
And Artemis the zone that bound her.
These kindly three, who reign above,
Lavished their gifts when she was wed;
Blameless, she gained a husband's love,
Male children blessed her marriage bed.

LXXI

THE UNBROKEN HOME

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Υ//. 21%,
αὐτῷ καὶ τεκέεσσι γυναικί τε τύμβον ἔδειμεν
᾿Ανδροτίων· οὔπω δ' οὐδενός εἰμι τάφος.
οὔτω καὶ μείναιμι πολὺν χρόνον· εἰ δ' ἄρα καὶ δεῖ,
δεξαίμην ἐν ἐμοὶ τοὺς προτέρους προτέρους.

This tomb will hold Androtion dead, His children and his loving wife. May Death first take the hoary head, And spare bright youth to joy in life.

LXXII

THE BROKEN HOME

BIANOR

V11.387

Θειονόης ἔκλαιον ἐμῆς μόρον, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ παιδὸς
ἐλπίσι κουφοτέρας ἔστενον εἰς ὀδύνας·
νῦν δέ με καὶ παιδὸς φθονερή τις ἐνόσφισε Μοῖρα·
φεῦ βρέφος, ἐψεύσθην καὶ σὲ τὸ λειπόμενον.
Περσεφόνη, τόδε πατρὸς ἐπὶ θρήνοισιν ἄκουσον,
θὲς βρέφος ἐς κόλπους μητρὸς ἀποιχομένης.

I MOURNED my dead Theionoë, but found Some solace in the child the dear one left.

Now has my agony of grief been crowned,
The Fates have willed, and I am twice bereft.

Dread Queen that rulest o'er the realms of Dis!
Spurn not a sorrowing father's poor request,
Little it is I ask, but grant me this,
Lay thou the babe upon his mother's breast.

LXXIII

EARTH'S FELICITY

CARPHYLLIDES

V11.250.

μὴ μέμψη παριών τὰ μνήματά μου, παροδιτα,
οὐδὲν ἔχω θρήνων ἄξιον οὐδὲ θανών·
τέκνων τέκνα λέλοιπα· μιῆς ἀπέλαυσα γυναικὸς
συγγήρου· τρισσοῖς παισὶν ἔδωκα γάμους,
ἐξ ὧν πολλάκι παίδας ἐμοῖς ἐνεκοίμισα κόλποις
οὐδενὸς οἰμώξας οὐ νόσον, οὐ θάνατον·
οἴ με κατασπείσαντες ἀπήμονα, τὸν γλυκὺν ὕπνον

κοιμασθαι χώρην πέμψαν ἐπ' εὐσεβέων.

TRAVELLER, who at this stone may chance to pause
To mourn the lot of him who slumbers here,
Spare thy lament, nor weep without a cause,
For e'en in death I claim no pitying tear.
Happy my lot whilst in the realms above,
With one fond spouse I passed a blameless life,
Three sons I saw, the offspring of our love,
And lived to give to each a loving wife.
Babes, fond and dear, the triple marriage gave,
I lulled them oft to sleep upon my breast,
With painless tears they laid me in the grave
To slumber in the regions of the blest.



VIII BEAUTY

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LXXIV

COMING THROUGH THE RYE

RHIANUS XII,121

η ρά νύ τοι, Κλεόνικε, δι' ἀτραπιτοῖο κιόντι στεινης ηντήσανθ' αὶ λιπαραί Χάριτες, και σε ποτί ροδέησιν ἐπηχύναντο χέρεσσιν, κοῦρε, πεποίησαι δ' ἡλίκος ἐσσὶ χάρις. τηλόθι μοι μάλα χαῖρε· πυρὸς δ' οὐκ ἀσφαλὲς ἄσσον ἔρπειν αὐηρήν, ἄ φίλος, ἀνθέρικα.

METHINKS, when gazing on thy heavenly charms,
The Graces met thee where thou could'st not move,
Clasping thee fondly in their rosy arms,
They gave thee all the attributes of love.
On thee, dear heart, they lavished all their grace.
Pleased, from afar I hail the vision bright,
I dare not view too near thy beauteous face,
The stalk, when dry, is easily alight.

IX FATE AND CHANGE

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LXXV

THE FLOWER OF YOUTH

MARCUS ARGENTARIUS

V.118.

Ἰσιὰς ἡδύπνευστε, καὶ εἰ δεκάκις μύρον εὕδεις, ἔγρεο καὶ δέξαι χερσὶ φίλαις στέφανον δυ νῦν μὲν θάλλοντα, μαραινόμενον δὲ πρὸς ἠῶ ὄψεαι, ὑμετέρης σύμβολον ἡλικίης.

AWAKE, my sweet-breathed Isias, whilst 'tis time, The flowers I bring will fade at dawn of day. Even so thy fleeting beauty, at its prime, Will shine for one brief hour and then decay.

LXXVI

WITHERED BLOSSOMS

STRATO ×11.234.

εἰ κάλλει καυχᾳ, γίγνωσχ' ὅτι καὶ ῥόδον ἀνθεῖ,
ἀλλὰ μαρανθὲν ἄφνω σὺν κοπρίοις ἐρίφη·
ἄνθος γὰρ καὶ κάλλος ἴσον χρόνον ἐστὶ λαχόντα,
ταῦτα δ' ὁμῆ φθονέων ἐξεμάρανε χρόνος.

Boast not, the rose is also fair,
It withers and is cast away.
Does envious Time the blossom spare?
Thou and the rose alike decay.

LXXVII

THE END OF DESIRE

secundus

1x. 260.

ή τὸ πάλαι Λατς πάντων βέλος, οὐκέτι Λατς ἀλλ' ἐτέων φανερὴ πᾶσιν ἐγὼ Νέμεσις. οὐ μὰ Κύπριν (τί δὲ Κύπρις ἐμοὶ πλέον ἡ ὅσον ὅρκος;) γνώριμον οὐδ' αὐτῆ Λατδι Λατς ἔτι.

Lais, whose laughing eyes have pierced the heart Of many a man, herself has felt the dart Of cruel Time. He laid her beauty low. Then, in her loveless solitude, she swore, By Venus, that she knew herself no more, And marvelled that the men had loved her so.

LXXVIII HOARDED BEAUTY

STRATO

Χ//. 2 3/5εἰ μὲν γηράσκει τὸ καλόν, μετάδος πρὶν ἀπέλθη·
εἰ δὲ μένει, τί φοβῆ τοῦθ' ὁ μένει διδόναι;

Ir beauty dies, then yield a share Before it fades for evermore. But if it lasts, my love, forbear To treasure up an endless store.

LXXIX

CARPE DIEM

AUTHOR UNKNOWN ×/.53. τὸ ῥόδον ἀκμάζει βαιὸν χρόνον ἢν δὲ παρέλθη, ζητῶν εὐρήσεις οὐ ῥόδον ἀλλὰ βάτον.

"GATHER the rose-buds whilst you may,"
The poet sings in tones forlorn.
Should you a few brief hours delay,
You'll find no rose-bud, but a thorn.

LXXX

DUST AND ASHES

ASCLEPIADES V. S. S.

φείδη παρθενίης, καὶ τί πλέον; οὐ γὰρ ἐς "Αιδην ἐλθοῦσ' εὐρήσεις τὸν φιλέοντα, κόρη· ἐν ζωοῖσι τὰ τερπνὰ τὰ Κύπριδος· ἐν δ' 'Αχέροντι ὀστέα καὶ σποδιή, παρθένε, κεισόμεθα.

Why so coy, ye lovely maids? Lovers thrive not in the shades. Here on earth is Love's delight, There are dust and bones and night.

LXXXI

A STORY OF THE SEA

ANTIPATER OF THESSALONICA
1x.269

κλασθείσης ποτε νηὸς ἐν ὕδατι, δῆριν ἔθεντο δισσοὶ ὑπερ μούνης μαρνάμενοι σανίδος.
τύψε μεν 'Ανταγόρης Πεισίστρατον· οὐ νεμεσητόν, ἢν γὰρ ὑπερ ψυχῆς· ἀλλ' ἐμελησε Δίκη.
νήχεθ' ὁ μέν, τὸν δ' είλε κύων ἀλός· ἢ παναλάστωρ κηρῶν οὐδ' ὑγρῷ παύεται ἐν πελάγει.

Two sailors, when the vessel sank,

Clung to one plank their lives to save.

Tom foully struck Jack off the plank,

And doomed him to a watery grave.

Avenging Justice eyed the strife,

And punished quick. The sequel mark.

Jack swam ashore and saved his life,

Whilst Tom was swallowed by a shark.

LXXXII

THE CASKET OF PANDORA

MACEDONIUS

Πανδώρης ὁρόων γελόω πίθου, οὐδὲ γυναῖκα μέμφομαι, ἀλλ' αὐτῶν τὰ πτερὰ τῶν 'Αγαθῶν τὰ γὰρ ἐπ' Οὐλύμποιο μετὰ χθονὸς ἤθεα πάσης πωτῶνται, πίπτειν καὶ κατὰ γῆν ὄφελον. ἡ δὲ γυνὴ μετὰ πῶμα κατωχρήσασα παρειὰς ἄλεσεν ἀγλαίην ὧν ἔφερεν χαρίτων, ἀμφοτέρων δ' ἤμαρτεν ὁ νῦν βίος, ὅττι καὶ αὐτὴν

γηράσκουσαν έχει, καὶ πίθος οὐδὲν έχει.

As on Pandora's jar my eyes alight
I blame the Blessings, not the curious maid.
These through the starry Heavens wing their flight,
Alas! on ruined Earth they should have stayed.
But she, with pallid cheeks and frightened stare,
Is doubly punished for her venial sin,
Her beauty joins the Blessings in the air,
Whilst, save for Hope, the jar is void within.

LXXXIII

LIGHT LOVE

MARCUS ARGENTARIUS V./13

ηράσθης πλουτών, Σωσίκρατες· άλλὰ πένης ών οὐκέτ' ἐρậ· λιμὸς φάρμακον οἰον ἔχει·

- ή δὲ πάρος σε καλεῦσα μύρον καὶ τερπνὸν ᾿Αδωνιν Μηνοφίλα, νῦν σου τοὔνομα πυνθάνεται.
- τίς πόθεν εἶς ἀνδρῶν; πόθι τοι πόλις; ἢ μόλις ἔγνως τοῦτ' ἔπος, ὡς οὐδεὶς οὐδὲν ἔχοντι φίλος.

When rich, Sosicrates, a crew
Of hungry friends beset your portals.
Now you are shunned by all you knew,
O least befriended amongst mortals!
Your mistress, who used every word
Of love, and meant it for a while,¹
Now swears your name she never heard,
Or asks your city with a smile.
Surely the case is clearly proved,
Learn what these sorry truths portend:
The rich man is by all beloved,
The poor man never has a friend.

¹ Μηνοφίλα.

LXXXIV

CORINTH

ANTIPATER OF SIDON

ποῦ τὸ περίβλεπτον κάλλος σέο, Δωρὶ Κόρινθε; ποῦ στεφάναι πύργων, ποῦ τὰ πάλαι κτέανα;

ποῦ νηοὶ μακάρων, ποῦ δώματα, ποῦ δὲ δάμαρτες Σισύφιαι λαῶν θ' αἴ ποτε μυριάδες;

οὐδὲ γὰρ οὐδ' ἔχνος, πολυκάμμορε, σεῖο λέλειπται, πάντα δὲ συμμάρψας ἐξέφαγεν πόλεμος.

μοῦναι ἀπόρθητοι Νηρηίδες 'Ωκεανοῖο κοῦραι σῶν ἀχέων μίμνομεν ἀλκυόνες.

Where is thy beauty, Dorian Corinth, where
The crown of towers, which of old was thine?
The halls once crowded by the brave and fair,
The throng which flocked to many a gorgeous shrine?
Thy beauty's wrecked. It ne'er can rise again,
'Tis wasted by the stern, relentless foe,
And only we, the Nymphs from out the main,
Abide, like halcyons, wailing o'er thy woe.

LXXXV

TROY

AGATHIAS

- εὶ μὲν ἀπὸ Σπάρτης τις ἔφυς, ξένε, μή με γελάσσης, οὐ γὰρ ἐμοὶ μούνη ταῦτα τέλεσσε Τύχη·
- εί δέ τις έξ 'Ασίης, μη πένθεε, Δαρδανικοῖς γαρ σκήπτροις Αίνεαδων πάσα νένευκε πόλις·
- εί δε θεών τεμένη και τείχεα και ναετήρας ζηλήμων δηίων εξεκένωσεν *Αρης,
- εἰμὶ πάλιν βασίλεια· σὰ δ' & τέκος, ἄτρομε 'Ρώμη, βάλλε καθ' Έλλήνων σῆς ζυγόδεσμα δίκης.

O Spartan, hold me not in scorn,
Others have shared my hapless plight.
And, thou of Asia, cease to mourn,
Thy cities know the Dardan might.
Although the foe has razed my home,
My queenly rank shall never cease,
For thou, my child, Imperial Rome,
Shalt lay thy heavy yoke on Greece.

LXXXVI

FORTUNE'S PLAYTHING

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

οὐκ ἐθέλουσα Τύχη σε προήγαγεν, ἀλλ' ἴνα δείξη ώς ὅτι μέχρις σοῦ πάντα ποιεῖν δύναται.

OH! thank not Fortune. She but wished to show Her might in raising one who stood so low.

LXXXVII

TENANTS AT WILL

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ἀγρὸς 'Αχαιμενίδου γενόμην ποτέ, νῦν δὲ Μενίππου, καὶ πάλιν ἐξ ἐτέρου βήσομαι εἰς ἔτερον καὶ γὰρ ἐκεῖνος ἔχειν μέ ποτ' ῷετο, καὶ πάλιν οῦτος οἴεται· εἰμὶ δ' ὅλως οὐδενός, ἀλλὰ Τύχης.

I once was called the field of John,
Until he sold me to his brother,
Each in his turn thought me his own,
And so I pass from one to other.
But who the ownership can claim
I know, and laugh at man's delusion,
Fortune the Fickle is her name,
She covers all men with confusion.

LXXXVIII

PARTING COMPANY

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

/×.49

Έλπὶς καὶ σὺ Τύχη μέγα χαίρετε· τὸν λιμέν' εὖρον· οὐδὲν ἐμοὶ χ' ὑμῖν· παίζετε τοὺς μετ' ἐμέ.

Delusive Hope, and Fortune too,
Farewell! I've reached the port.
There's nothing now 'twixt me and you,
Of others make a sport.

X THE HUMAN COMEDY

...



LXXXIX THE EMPTY JAR

ERATOSTHENES

V1.77.
οἰνοπότας Ξενοφῶν κενεὸν πίθον ἄνθετο, Βάκχε· δέχνυσο δ' εὐμενέως· ἄλλο γὰρ οὐδὲν ἔχει.

BACCHUS, receive this empty jar. 'Tis thine. 'Tis all that Bibo hath not spent on wine.

XC

AN UNGROUNDED SCANDAL

LUCILIUS

X1.68

τὰς τρίχας, ὁ Νίκυλλά, τινες βάπτειν σε λέγουσιν ἃς σὺ μελαινοτάτας ἐξ ἀγορᾶς ἐπρίω.

> You dye those locks of raven hue, Nicylla—so 'tis said or thought. And this most certainly is true, No blacker hair is ever bought.

XCI

THE POPULAR SINGER

NICARCHUS

νυκτικόραξ ἄδει θανατηφόρον· ἀλλ' ὅταν ἄση Δημόφιλος, θνήσκει καὐτὸς ὁ νυκτικόραξ.

'Tis thought that those must surely die Who hear the dread night-raven's cry. Demophilus, 'tis sometimes said, Can even sing the raven dead.

XCII

SIMON THE OCULIST

NICARCHUS

ην τιν' έχης έχθρόν, Διονύσιε, μη καταράση την 'Ισιν τούτφ μηδε τον 'Αρποκράτην, μηδ' εἴ τις τυφλούς ποιεί θεός, ἀλλὰ Σίμωνα· καὶ γνώση τί θεὸς καὶ τί Σίμων δύναται.

Call not on any deity to strike

The foe whom you would doom to blindness,
But call on blundering Simon; all would like
God's anger more than Simon's kindness.

XCIII SCIENTIFIC SURGERY

NICARCHUS

χειρουργών ἔσφαξεν 'Ακεστορίδην 'Αγέλαος· ζών γὰρ χωλεύειν, φησίν, ἔμελλε τάλας.

THE patient surely had been lame for life, So Scalpel, pitying, killed him with his knife.

XCIV

SOOTHSAYING

NICARCHUS

X1.162.

εἰς 'Ρόδον εἰ πλεύσει τις 'Ολυμπικὸν ἢλθεν ἐρωτῶν τὸν μάντιν, καὶ πῶς πλεύσεται ἀσφαλέως· χώ μάντις, πρῶτον μέν, ἔφη, καινὴν ἔχε τὴν ναῦν, καὶ μὴ χειμῶνος, τοῦ δὲ θέρους ἀνάγου· τοῦτο γὰρ ἄν ποιῆς, ἥξεις κἀκεῖσε καὶ ὧδε ἄν μὴ πειρατὴς ἐν πελάγει σε λάβη.

"Say, prophet, shall I reach my native isle?"

The anxious sailor asked, and heaved a sigh.

The hoary humbug scanned the stars awhile,

Then mumbled through his beard this sage reply:

"Buy a new ship; in summer thou should'st sail.

Wait till the winter's boisterous storms are over.

To reach thine island home thou canst not fail,

Unless, perchance, thou'rt captured by a rover."

XCV

THE ASTROLOGER'S FORECAST

AGATHIAS

X1. 365.

- Καλλιγένης ἀγροῖκος ὅτε σπόρον ἔμβαλε γαίη οἰκον ᾿Αριστοφάνους ἢλθεν ἐς ἀστρολόγου
- ήτεε δ' εξερέειν είπερ θέρος αίσιον αὐτῷ ἔσται καὶ σταχύων ἄφθονος εὐπορίη.
- δς δὲ λαβων ψηφίδας, ὑπὲρ πίνακός τε πυκάζων, δάκτυλά τε γνάμπτων φθέγξατο Καλλιγένει·
- είπερ ἐπομβρηθη τὸ ἀρούριον ὅσσον ἀπόχρη μηδέ τιν ὑλαίην τέξεται ἀνθοσύνην,
- μηδὲ πάγος ρήξη τὴν αὕλακα μηδὲ χαλάζη ἄκρον ἀποδρυφθῆ δράγματος ὀρνυμένου
- μηδὲ κεμὰς κείρησι τὰ λήϊα μηδέ τιν' ἄλλην ἠέρος ἡ γαίης ὄψεται ἀμπλακίην,
- ἐσθλόν σοι τὸ θέρος μαντεύομαι, εὖ δ' ἀποκόψεις τοὺς στάχυας μούνας δείδιθι τὰς ἀκρίδας.

THE farmer ploughed his land with furrows deep, Then on the teeming earth he threw the seed. "Augur," he asked, "what harvest shall I reap? What crop and weather have the Fates decreed?" The prophet laid his counters on the board, And studied them again and yet again, Then gave from out a mind with learning stored This Delphic answer to the curious swain: "If ample rain falls on the seed you sow, And if no weeds amongst the corn appear, If you avoid the risks from frost and snow, If furious hailstorms spare the budding ear, If deer and other beasts should shun your field, And nothing else should do you any harm, I prophesy you'll have a first-rate yield, But mark my warning—locusts always swarm."

XCVI

THE WOODEN HORSE

LUCILIUS X1.259

Θεσσαλον ἵππον ἔχεις, Ἐρασίστρατε, ἀλλὰ σαλεῦσαι οὐ δύνατ' αὐτον ὅλης φάρμακα Θεσσαλίης ὅντως δούριον ἵππον, ὅν εἰ Φρύγες εἶλκον ἄπαντες σὺν Δαναοῖς, Σκαιὰς οὐκ ἄν ἐσῆλθε πύλας· ὅν στήσας ἀνάθημα θεοῦ τινος, εἰ προσέχεις μοι, τὰς κριθὰς ποίει τοῖς τεκνίοις πτισάνην.

The Trojan and the Grecian hordes,
United, would have never moved
A horse like this; 'tis made of boards,
'Tis so inert it can't be shoved.
Simon, my friend, thou art ill-starred!
No drug can move this equine jewel,
Then send him to the knacker's yard,
And use his corn for making gruel.

XCVII

A GENERATION OF VIPERS

VIPERS, toads, snakes, and ——1. Of these beware. Of ——1 again, and mad dogs, have a care.

1 Every one can here insert his own special antipathy, in the place of the Laodiceans of the original. It must, however, for metrical reasons, be expressed in a monosyllable. Even with this restriction, a fairly wide field remains open for purposes of selection.

XCVIII

THE LIFEBOAT

NICARCHUS メル33/

είχε Φίλων λέμβον Σωτήριον άλλ' εν εκείνω σωθην' οὐδε Ζεύς αὐτὸς ἴσως δύναται οὔνομα γὰρ μόνον ην Σωτήριος οἱ δ' επιβάντες επλεον η παρά γην η παρά Φερσεφόνην.

Salvation, Philo named his boat.
Forsooth, it was a curious notion.
Not Zeus himself could make her float,
She sank into the depths of Ocean.

XCIX

THE FRUITS OF PHILOSOPHY

LUCIAN XJ.4/2

τοῦ πωγωνοφόρου Κυνικοῦ, τοῦ βακτροπροσαίτου εἴδομεν ἐν δείπνω τὴν μεγάλην σοφίαν· θέρμων μὲν γὰρ πρῶτον ἀπέσχετο καὶ ῥαφανίδων μὴ δεῖν δουλεύειν γαστρὶ λέγων ἀρετήν· εὖτε δ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἴδεν χιονώδεα βόλβαν στρυφνήν, ἡ πινυτὸν ἤδη ἔκλεπτε νόον, ἤτησεν παρὰ προσδοκίαν καὶ ἔτρωγεν ἀληθῶς, κοὐδὲν ἔφη βόλβαν τὴν ἀρετὴν ἀδικεῖν.

How wise the sturdy prig appeared

When he refused some woolly mutton,
And mumbled through his snow-white beard,

"A virtuous man is not a glutton."
But when a savoury dish he spied,

His virtue yielded to the charm,
He ate his fill, and loudly cried,

"Such food as this can do no harm."

C

EPILOGUE

PHILODEMUS

ηράσθην τίς δ' οὐχί; κεκώμακα τίς δ' ἀμύητος κώμων; ἀλλ' ἐμάνην ἐκ τίνος; οὐχὶ θεοῦ; ἐρρίφθω πολιὴ γὰρ ἐπείγεται ἀντὶ μελαίνης θρὶξ ἤδη, συνετῆς ἄγγελος ἡλικίης.
καὶ παίζειν ὅτε καιρός, ἐπαίξαμεν ἡνίκα καὶ νῦν οὐκέτι, λωϊτέρης φροντίδος ἀψόμεθα.

I LOVED, I played, I drank my wine
In youth's brief blithesome hour of gladness.
Who has not heard the voice divine
Inviting joy akin to madness?
Alas, 'tis o'er! My wrinkled brow
Comes, like the warning of a sage,
To say that pleasure's past, and now
My thoughts must change to suit my age.

XI DEATH

CI

THE DECOY PARTRIDGE

SIMMIAS

V//-203

οὐκέτ' ἀν' ὑλῆεν δρίος εὕσκιον, ἀγρότα πέρδιξ, ἠχήεσσαν ἵης γῆρυν ἀπὸ στομάτων, θηρεύων βαλίους συνομήλικας ἐν νομῷ ὕλης· ἄχεο γὰρ πυμάταν εἰς 'Αχέροντος ὁδόν.

Thy note, O Partridge, clear as any bell,
Decoys no more thy kinsfolk of the wood,
The speckled tribe securely range the dell,
For thou thyself hast crossed the Stygian flood.

CII

BENE MERENTI

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Y11.321

γαία φίλη του πρέσβυν 'Αμύντιχου ἔνθεο κόλποις πολλών μνησαμένη τών ἐπὶ σοὶ καμάτων καὶ γὰρ ἀεὶ πρέμνον σοι ἐνεστήριξεν ἐλαίης, πολλάκι καὶ Βρομίου κλήμασιν ἠγλάϊσεν, καὶ Δηοῦς ἔπλησε, καὶ ὕδατος αὔλακας ἔλκων θῆκε μὲν εὐλάχανον, θῆκε δ' ὀπωροφόρον

άνθ' ών σὺ πρηεία κατά κροτάφου πολιοίο κείσο, καὶ εἰαρινάς ἀνθοκόμει βοτάνας.

DEAR Earth, Amyntichus is borne
Into thy bosom. He is thine.
Bethink thee of the fruitful corn,
The olive-stock, and clinging vine.
All these he cherished day by day,
Remember what to thee he gave,
Lie softly on his temples grey,
With vernal flowers deck his grave.

CIII

DEATH AT SEA

SIMONIDES

V11.570

σῶμα μὲν ἀλλοδαπὴ κεύθει κόνις ἐν δέ σε πόντφ,
Κλείσθενες, Εὐξείνφ μοῖρ' ἔκιχεν θανάτου
πλαζόμενον, γλυκεροῦ δὲ μελίφρονος οἴκαδε νόστου
ἤμπλακες, οὐδ' ἵκευ Χῖον ἐπ' ἀμφιρύτην.

Thy tomb was fashioned by a foreign hand,
Thy children scan the eastern sky in vain.
Lie here for ever on the Euxine strand,
Thine island home thou ne'er shalt see again.

CIV

A RESTLESS GRAVE

ARCHIAS

VIII, 278.

οὐδὲ νέκυς ναυηγὸς ἐπὶ χθόνα Θῆρις ἐλασθεὶς κύμασιν ἀγρύπνων λήσομαι ἠϊόνων ἢ γερ άλιρρήκτοις ὑπὸ δειράσιν, ἀγχόθι πόντου δυσμενέος, ξείνων χερσὶν ἔκυρσα τάφου, αἰεὶ δὲ βρομέοντα καὶ ἐν νεκύεσσι θαλάσσης ὁ τλήμων ἀτω δοῦπον ἀπεχθόμενον.

I, Theris, who lie buried on this shore,
Tossed hither as a waif from out the deep,
Even in death must hearken to the roar
Of the remorseless sea, that knows not sleep.
The stranger laid me in my narrow grave
By the surf-beaten reef, and midst the dead,
Ever I hear the cruel, ceaseless wave
Rumbling its hated thunder o'er my head.

\mathbf{CV}

MORS IMMORTALIS

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

V: 342

κάτθανον, ἀλλὰ μένω σε· μενεῖς δέ τε καὶ σύ τιν' ἄλλον· πάντας ὁμῶς θνητοὺς εἶς 'Αίδης δέχεται.

I DIED, but wait with peaceful mind
For thee, my friend. Thou too shalt wait
For others that thou leavest behind.
Death garners all men soon or late.

XII

LIFE



CVI

THE JOY OF YOUTH

RUFINUS

V. 12.

λουσάμενοι, Προδίκη, πυκασώμεθα καὶ τὸν ἄκρατον ἔλκωμεν κύλικας μείζονας αἰρόμενοι· βαιὸς ὁ χαιρόντων ἐστὶν βίος· εἶτα τὰ λοιπὰ γῆρας κωλύσει, καὶ τὸ τέλος θάνατος.

My youthful love, drain unmixed wine, Joy in the bath and in the wreath, Seize the brief moments that are thine, Old age creeps on; the end is death.

CVII

THE USE OF LIFE

NICARCHUS

V 33

οὐκ ἀποθυήσκειν δεῖ με; τί μοι μέλει ἤν τε ποδαγρός, ἤν τε δρομεὺς γεγονὸς εἰς ᾿Ατδην ὑπάγω; πολλοὶ γάρ μ᾽ ἀροῦσιν· ἔα χωλόν με γενέσθαι, τῶνδ᾽ ἔνεκεν γὰρ ἴσως οὖποτ᾽ ἐῶ θιάσους.

What matters if with gouty toe
I start to join the shades below?
If of a crutch I stand in need,
Or rush away with greyhound speed?
I shall be borne against my will,
Then here on earth I'll drink my fill.

CVIII

VAIN RICHES

ANTIPHANES

X1.168,

ψηφίζεις, κακόδαιμον, ὁ δὲ χρόνος ὡς τόκον οὕτω καὶ πολιὸν τίκτει γῆρας ἐπερχόμενος, κοὕτε πιὼν οὕτ' ἄνθος ἐπὶ κροτάφοις ἀναδήσας, οὐ μύρον, οὐ γλαφυρὸν γνούς ποτ' ἐρωμένιον τεθνήξη, πλουτοῦσαν ἀφεὶς μεγάλην διαθήκην, ἐκ πολλῶν ὀβολὸν μοῦνον ἐνεγκάμενος.

He counts his gains, whilst hoary age
Advances with each fleeting hour,
He's sober, grasping, cold, and sage,
He laughs to scorn the Paphian's power.
Death comes, and he perforce must join
The brave, the base, the sad, the merry.
He leaves his hoards, save one poor coin,
Enough to pay the Stygian ferry.

CIX

MINIMUM CREDULA POSTERO

PALLADAS

X1.62

πᾶσι θανεῖν μερόπεσσιν ὀφείλεται, οὐδέ τις ἐστὶν αὔριον εἰ ζήσει θνητὸς ἐπιστάμενος·
τοῦτο σαφῶς, ἄνθρωπε, μαθὼν εὕφραινε σεαυτόν, λήθην τοῦ θανάτου τὸν Βρόμιον κατέχων, τέρπεο καὶ Παφίη, τὸν ἐφημέριον βίον ἔλκων, τἄλλα δὲ πάντα Τύχη πράγματα δὸς διέπειν.

BETHINK thee, Man, of Death and cruel Fate,
Perchance thou wilt not see to-morrow's sun,
Then grasp the wine-cup ere it be too late,
Be merry, ere thy little race is run.
Pleasures the beauteous Paphian Queen can give,
Her transient joys can now entrance thy soul.
Seize them, whilst still on earth allowed to live,
And leave the rest to Fortune to control.

$\mathbf{C}\mathbf{X}$

OUTRE-TOMBE

JULIANUS AEGYPTUS

γ//. 32.

πολλάκι μὲν τόδ' ἄεισα, καὶ ἐκ τύμβου δὲ βοήσω·
πίνετε, πρὶν ταύτην ἀμφιβάλησθε κόνιν.

Off have I cried, and still in death I cry, "Drink and be merry, comrades, ere you die."

CXI

EARTH TO EARTH

ZONAS

×1.43,

δός μοι τοὖκ γαίης πεπουημένον άδὺ κύπελλον, δς γενόμην, καὶ ὑφ' ξ κείσομ' ἀποφθίμενος.

THE earthen wine-cup here on earth I crave. Earth made me, and will hide me in the grave.

CXII

ECCE MYSTERIUM

BIANOR ×1.354 οὖτος ὁ μηδέν, ὁ λιτός, ὁ καὶ λάτρις, οὖτος ἐρᾶται κἀστί τινος ψυχῆς κύριος ἀλλοτρίης.

This wretch, without a sole redeeming feature, Is loved, and lords it o'er some fellow-creature.

CXIII THE SHADOW OF LIFE

THEOGNIS 20. 160, 1570,

ἄφρονες ἄνθρωποι καὶ νήπιοι οἶτε θανόντας κλαίουσ', οὐδ' ήβης ἄνθος ἀπολλύμενον.

Spare tears and mourning o'er the funeral urn, And mourn thy youth, which never can return.

CXIV

THE SHADOW OF DEATH

AUTHOR UNKNOWN X1.252

τοὺς καταλείψαντας γλυκερὸν φάος οὐκέτι θρηνῶ, τοὺς δ' ἐπὶ προσδοκίη ζῶντας ἀεὶ θανάτου.

I no not weep or mourn the dead,

They're gone, and rest at peace for ever.

I weep for those who live in dread

That Fate their cord of life will sever.

CXV

THE CLOSED ACCOUNT

PHILETAS

οὐ κλαίω ξείνων σὲ φιλαίτατε: πολλά γὰρ ἔγνως καλά· κακῶν δ' αὖ σοὶ μοῖραν ἔνειμε θεός.

God gave thee good and ill. I mourn thee not, Dearest of friends. Thine was the common lot.

CXVI

THE VOYAGE OF LIFE

PALLADAS

πλοῦς σφαλερὸς τὸ ζῆν· χειμαζόμενοι γὰρ ἐν αὐτῷ πολλάκι ναυηγῶν πταίομεν οἰκτρότερα· τὴν δὲ Τύχην βιότοιο κυβερνήτειραν ἔχοντες ὡς ἐπὶ τοῦ πελάγους ἀμφίβολοι πλέομεν, οἱ μὲν ἐπ' εὐπλοίην, οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν· ἀλλ' ἄμα πάντες εἰς ἕνα τὸν κατὰ γῆς ὅρμον ἀπερχόμεθα.

The bark of life puts out from port,
We hoist the mast and trim the sail,
Under the summer sky we sport,
At times we feel the wintry gale.
We know not where our lot is cast,
Our pilot, Chance, may wreck or save;
Whate'er betide, the voyage past,
All cast their anchors in the grave.

CXVII

DAILY BIRTH

PALLADAS

X.79

νυκτὸς ἀπερχομένης γεννώμεθα ἡμαρ ἐπ' ἡμαρ τοῦ προτέρου βιότου μηδὲν ἔχοντες ἔτι, ἀλλοτριωθέντες τῆς ἐχθεσινῆς διαγωγῆς τοῦ λοιποῦ δὲ βίου σήμερον ἀρχόμενοι· μὴ τοίνυν λέγε σαυτὸν ἐτῶν, πρεσβῦτα, περισσῶν, τῶν γὰρ ἀπελθόντων σήμερον οὐ μετέχεις.

Each fleeting day is killed by night,
Each morn the seed of Time is sown.
Ancient, in years take no delight,
Thou canst not call the past thine own.

CXVIII

THE COMMON ROAD

AMMIANUS

X1.13

ηως εξ ηους παραπέμπεται, είτ', άμελούντων ημών, εξαίφνης ήξει ο πορφύρεος, και τους μεν τήξας, τους δ' όπτήσας, ενίους δε φυσήσας, άξει πάντας ες εν βάραθρον.

MORN follows morn, and day succeeds to day,
We heed not what the fleeting hours forbode,
Sudden that Dark One seizes on his prey,
All reach the common goal, whate'er the road.

CXIX

NIHILISM

GLYCON

Χ. 124 πάντα γέλως καὶ πάντα κόνις καὶ πάντα τὸ μηδέν· πάντα γὰρ ἐξ ἀλόγων ἐστὶ τὰ γιγνόμενα.

> ALL is dust, and all is laughter, Think not of the dark hereafter. Here on earth be gay and jolly, Man's a fool, and all is folly.

CXX

LACHRIMAE RERUM

PALLADAS

δακρυχέων γενόμην καὶ δακρύσας ἀποθνήσκω δάκρυσι δ' ἐν πολλοῖς τὸν βίον εὖρον ὅλον. το γένος ἀνθρώπων πολυδάκρυον, ἀσθενές, οἰκτρόν, συρόμενον κατὰ γῆς καὶ διαλυόμενον.

Weeping, my mother gave me birth,
In tears I gained my daily bread.
I died. O piteous race! The earth
Claims as her own the mouldering dead.

CXXI

THE WORLD'S WORTH

AESOPUS

X,/23

πῶς τις ἄνευ θανάτου σε φύγη, βίε; μυρία γάρ σευ λυγρά, καὶ οὕτε φυγεῖν εὐμαρὲς οὕτε φέρειν·

ήδέα μὲν γάρ σου τὰ φύσει καλά, γαῖα, θάλασσα, ἄστρα, σεληναίης κύκλα καὶ ἠελίου,

τάλλα δὲ πάντα φόβοι τε καὶ ἄλγεα· κῆν τι πάθη τις ἐσθλόν, ἀμοιβαίην ἐκδέχεται Νέμεσιν. How, without Death, can we escape from thee,
O Life! beset with sorrow and with woe?
We must endure till Death shall set us free,
Since Life's sad burthen we cannot forego.
Yet thou art beautiful. The orb of day,
The earth displayed in verdant panoply,
The stars, the Moon, who sheds her silvery ray,
Rejoice the spirit and enchant the eye.
All else is fear and pain, which do annoy,
For if perchance some happiness we greet,
Fell Nemesis upon the track of joy
Follows with vengeful footsteps, sure and fleet.

CXXII

THE JOY OF LIFE

METRODORUS

1x.360

παντοίην βιότοιο τάμοις τρίβον· εἰν ἀγορῆ μὲν κύδεα καὶ πινυταὶ πρήξιες· ἐν δὲ δόμοις ἄμπαυμ'· ἐν δ' ἀγροῖς φύσιος χάρις· ἐν δὲ θαλάσση κέρδος· ἐπὶ ξείνης, ἡν μὲν ἔχης τι, κλέος, ἡν δ' ἀπορῆς, μόνος οἶδας· ἔχεις γάμον; οἶκος ἄριστος ἔσσεται· οὐ γαμέεις; ζῆς ἔτ' ἐλαφρότερος· τέκνα πόθος· ἄφροντις ἄπαις βίος· αὶ νεότητες ρωμαλέαι· πολιαὶ δ' ἔμπαλιν εὐσεβέες· οὐκ ἄρα τῶν δισσῶν ἐνὸς αἴρεσις, ἡ τὸ γενέσθαι μηδέποτ' ἡ τὸ θανεῖν· πάντα γὰρ ἐσθλὰ βίῳ.

All paths are good, choose as you please,
At sea you'll surely fill your coffers,
Or stay at home and take your ease,
Or woo the charms which Nature offers.
Art married? Taste domestic joys.
A bachelor? Thy cares are lighter.
Sweet is the love of girls and boys,
Without them, perhaps thy life is brighter.
'Tis not for thee to make the choice,
Ne'er to be born or else to die.
All things are good in life. Rejoice
In these, nor heed that Death is nigh.

CXXIII

PIS-ALLER

THEOGNIS 27. 425 _429

πάντων μεν μη φύναι επιχθονίοισιν ἄριστον μηδ' εσιδείν αὐγὰς ὀξέος η ελίου φύντα δ' ὅπως ὥκιστα πύλας 'Αίδαο περησαι και κείσθαι πολλην γην επαμησάμενον.

Not to be born or see the sun
Were best, but Fate decrees my birth.
May my brief race be swiftly run,
Then pile upon me heaps of earth.

CXXIV

THE LAST WORD

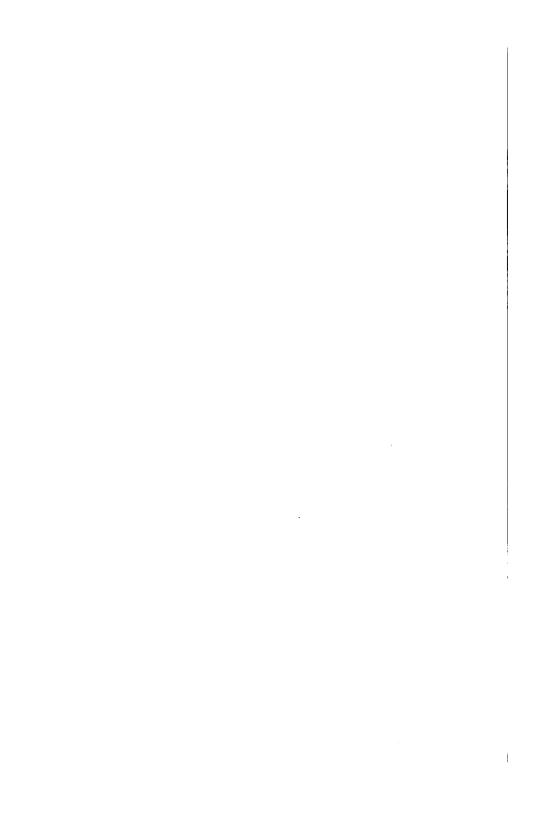
PALLADAS

X/.300

πολλά λαλεῖς, ἄνθρωπε, χαμαὶ δὲ τίθη μετά μικρόν. σίγα, καὶ μελέτα ζῶν ἔτι τὸν θάνατον.

Thou talkest much, O man, but spare thy breath, Keep silence here on earth, and think on Death. .

THEOCRITUS



IDYLL II

THE LOVE-CHARM

WHERE are my laurel leaves? bring here my charms. Wreathe, Thestylis, with purple wool the bowl, That I may lure my lover to my arms, And cast my witch-knots o'er his faithless soul. No hands assault my door; twelve days I pine, He recks not if I live or join the shades, Thy power, O Love! or, Aphrodite, thine, Has fixed his light desires on other maids. Where wrestlers throng, I'll meet the truant soon, And strive with sharp reproach his soul to wring, But now to try the charm. Shine, Lady Moon! To thee, and Hecate of Hell, I'll sing. Hail, awful Hecate! the very hounds All trembling view thee sweeping o'er the gore Of mortals done to death, and o'er the mounds Where moulder those who lived in days of yore.

Be with me now! Endue my magic arms
With potency beyond Medea's powers,
Nor Circe's, nor fair Perimede's charms,
Be mightier to ban or bless than ours.

My magic wheel, I bid thee move,
Draw home to me the man I love.

Lo! where the barley smoulders in a pile—
I note thy laughter, handmaiden unkind—
Nay, toss again the grain, and cry the while:
"I fling the bones of Delphis to the wind!"
My magic wheel, I bid thee move,
Draw home to me the man I love.

As the green laurel crackles in the fire,
And flames consume the leaves with eager haste—
Grant, awful Hecate, my fell desire—
So may the flesh of faithless Delphis waste.

My magic wheel, I bid thee move,
Draw home to me the man I love.

And now, with aid divine, the wax dissolves,
So may love soften him who was my lover!
With Aphrodite's help, the wheel revolves,
So, restless, round my doors may Delphis hover!
My magic wheel, I bid thee move,
Draw home to me the man I love.

ŀ

I burn the husks. Hell's adamantine portal
Must yield to thee, O Artemis the Blest!
The dogs bay loud, they honour the Immortal,
In the crossways the Goddess stands confessed
My magic wheel, I bid thee move,
Draw home to me the man I love.

Hushed are the winds, silent the Ocean's swell,
But peace is banished from my hapless life,
I long for Delphis, whom I loved too well,
No maiden, but, alas! no wedded wife.

My magic wheel, I bid thee move,
Draw home to me the man I love.

Three times the words I utter with this prayer,
On other loves cast a Lethean spell!
So Ariadne, of the golden hair,
By Theseus was forgot, as legends tell.
My magic wheel, I bid thee move,
Draw home to me the man I love.

In Arcady there grows a subtle weed,

Coltsfoot its name, the courser's blood it fires,

May Delphis, mad as an Arcadian steed,

Rush to my door, inflamed by hot desires.

My magic wheel, I bid thee move,

Draw home to me the man I love.

This fringe from off his cloak I hither bring,
And cast into the cruel flaming bowl.

Ah! torturing Love, that like a leech doth cling,
And drains my heart, but leaves inflamed my soul!

My magic wheel, I bid thee move,
Draw home to me the man I love.

Haste, Thestylis, and with this magic herb
Anoint his house and, bending o'er the stones,
Mutter these words—may they his soul perturb!
"Thus, faithless Delphis, do I smear thy bones."
My magic wheel, I bid thee move,
Draw home to me the man I love.

And now alone I can bewail my love.

Ah! where shall I begin my tale of woe?

Anaxo came to bright Selene's grove,

And in her train she brought a sacred show.

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,

My Lady Moon!

My Thracian nurse urged me to watch the sight.

Alack-a-day! would that she ne'er had spoke!

I seized a sweeping stole in hurried flight,

And o'er it cast Clearista's gala cloak.

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,

My Lady Moon!

There I met Delphis in the mid highway,

Fresh issuing from the wrestler's glorious toil,

His breast shone brighter than thy silvery ray,

O Moon! his beard the ivy bloom did foil.

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,

My Lady Moon!

I gazed and loved; my beauty on the wane
Showed how my heart was stricken with the wound.
Ten days I tossed in parching, restless pain,
No solace to my fever could be found.

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,
My Lady Moon!

My hair fell off, and waxen grew my skin,

I sought each mumbling wizard's aid in vain.

Time passed, yet hotly burned the fire within,

And none but Delphis could assuage my pain.

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,

My Lady Moon!

Then frenzied cried I: "Thestylis, be kind!
Some cure for this dread sickness must be found,
This Myndian holds my body and my mind,
Watch for him at his daily wrestling-ground."

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,
My Lady Moon!

"Find him alone, with no one by to tell,
And say: 'By fair Simaetha thou art sought.''
'Twas thus I spoke. She did my errand well,
The bright-limbed Delphis to my house she brought.

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,
My Laay Moon!

Then of a sudden I grew cold as snow,

The sweat, as Delphis at my door I spied,

Like dank dew streamed from off my pallid brow,

I would have spoken, but my tongue was tied.

Nor could I murmur, as a child alone

Calls on its mother in a fitful dream,

My body, once so fair, was turned to stone,

And did as lifeless as an image seem.

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,

My Lady Moon!

He knew not love, and spoke with downcast eyes:

"Thy call by so much did outstrip my pace
As when, but yesterday, I gained the prize,
And outran swift Philinus in the race."

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,
My Lady Moon!

"Sweet love, by night I should have come to thee,
Bearing the apples of the God of Wine,
And on my head the leaves from off the tree
Of Hercules, bedecked with purple twine."

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,
My Lady Moon!

"The friends and boon-companions of my youth Would all have joyed, had I been well received, They would have come—full well they know the truth, Few equal me in beauty and in speed.

From thy sweet mouth I should have begged a kiss, But had'st thou thrust me forth or said me nay, And with a bolted door denied the bliss,

With torch and axe I would have forced a way."

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,

My Lady Moon!

"And now to Cypris first I yield the praise,
And then to thee, who bad'st me come this night.

Love, it is clear, can light a wilder blaze
Than the swart Fire-God on great Etna's height."

Bethink thee of my love, and whence it came,
My Lady Moon!

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THEOCRITUS

IDYLL III

RUSTIC COURTSHIP

I WANDER on the hillside whilst I sing, And as in rustic verse my numbers flow, Lead, Tityrus, the she-goats to the spring, But 'ware the Libyan goat with butting brow. Ah! lovely Amaryllis, thy sweet eye No longer gleams inviting from the cave. Am I ill-favoured? Thou hast seen me nigh, Or dost thou hate me—I that am thy slave? See now, with apples ten thy grace I claim, And other ten I'll bring to thee to-morrow, I plucked them at the place thyself did'st name— Ah! pity then my heart's despondent sorrow! Would that I were a humming honey-bee! Under the clustering ivy I would dip, Under the flowery fern that hideth thee, Lightly to settle on thy cherry lip. I know the Love-God now. The cruel sprite! He is the offspring of some lioness,

His fire scorches, keenly doth he bite, His mother reared him in some dark recess. Ah! Heart of stone, but lovely to the sight! Ah! Maiden of dark brows and beauteous face! Even thine empty kisses give delight, Then clasp thy goatherd in a close embrace! An ivy wreath, dear love, I keep for thee— This will I rend, and cast it far away, Rosebuds and parsley vie right prettily To charm the eye. Ah! Listen whilst I pray! I will tear off my humble coat of skins, And leap into the waves of yonder sea, Where Olpis from the deep the tunny wins, I'll chance my life, so be it pleaseth thee. I learnt the truth of old, what time I found The flowers whispered forth a sad alarm, The poppy petal gave no crackling sound, But drooped and withered on my smooth forearm. And she that tells the future with a sieve, And binds the sheaves as reapers onward move, She said that I should love thee whilst I live, But thou would'st never render love for love. For thee I kept the twin kids and their dam, Which brown-skinned Erithacis yearns to own, To her I'll give them, maddened as I am, Since wantonly my love thou dost disown.

Mine eyelid throbs. Is it a welcome sign That for her cruelty she will atone? I'll stay and sing beneath this towering pine— That form cannot conceal a heart of stone. Hippomenes, who wooed the famous maid, Dropped apples as he ran, and won the race, To grasp the fruit swift Atalanta stayed, And straightway fell into Love's strong embrace. So famed Melampus in the days of yore From Thessaly the herd of oxen drove, What time his kinsman on the sandy shore Of Pylos gained fair Pero for his love. Thus Cytherea, frenzied by love's sting, When fair Adonis drew his parting breath, Still to his lifeless body loved to cling, And clasped him to her bosom e'en in death. Thrice-blest Endymion, on whom the spell Was cast, fair maid, of never-ending rest, And Jason, whom such wondrous things befell As mortals wot not of, he too is blest. Mine aching temples throb; I'll yield my breath, Since now I know thou carest not for me, And, though the wolves devour me, may my death Prove sweet as honey in the mouth to thee.

IDYLL XV

THE FESTIVAL OF ADONIS

Dramatis personae . . Gorgo. Praxinoe.

(The scene is at Alexandria, about 280 B.C., during the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus.)

- GOR. Is fair Praxinoe in? PRAX. Ah! do mine eyes Deceive me? Gorgo dear, since we did meet It is an age! This is a glad surprise. Eunoe, bring a cushion and a seat.
- I'm happy as I am. PRAX. Nay, sit thee down. GOR.
- Gor. Oh! what a thing it is to know no fear! I scarce got here alive, for in the town The crowd is really something awful, dear. Such four-in-hands! Oh no! I really never! Such hosts of booted men the streets do bar! And then the road! It seems to last for ever! Praxinoe, you really live too far.
- PRAX. The fault, dear, with my silly husband lies. The jealous wretch! Such spite fills all his soul!

To sunder us, to the world's end he hies, And takes—'tis not a house—this very hole!

Gor. Don't talk of Dinon thus, dear girl. Beware!
Remember he's the father of your boy.
See how Zopyrion marks you with a stare!

PRAX. Heed not! I don't mean papa, mother's joy!

Gor. Persephone! The child knows what we say!
Your darling father! Prax. Yes, his darling dad,
The other day—we say the other day
For all days that are past—I humbly bade,
As of some rouge and soap I stood in need,
To hasten to the shops and look about.
Away he hurried at his greatest speed,
And straightway brought me salt! The hulking lout!

Gor. So like my Diocleides! Fleeces five

My spendthrift mate for seven drachmas bought,

And what d'ye think he got? As I'm alive,

Mere dogskins, shreds of pouches, things of
nought!

But don your shawl, and pin it up with care, The feast of great Adonis will not wait. I hear the Queen's provided something rare, Haste to the Palace ere it be too late.

PRAM. Fine folks do all things finely. Gor. Well I know That, when the feast is o'er, a lot you'll say To others who were absent. Let us go.

Prax. For idlers each day is a holiday.

Eunoe, lazy girl! some water bring.

Cats love to sleep so soft, the proverb says.

See how she carries it! The stupid thing!

But bring it quick. I hate these slattern ways!

Don't pour so much. Oh! What a dreadful mess!

No! such a clumsy girl I ne'er did see.

I've washed my hands, but wetted all my dress.

Where's the big chest? Bring hither quick the key.

Gor. The flowing robe and brooch become you well.

It's very pretty. How much did it cost?

Prax. Alas! dear Gorgo, I quite shame to tell—
Two minas of good coin as good as lost!
I could not get the stuff itself for less,
And then the work! It almost made me blind.

GOR. Well really, dear, it is a great success.

Prax. Thanks for the pretty speech. You're very kind.

Bring me my shawl. In fashion's latest way
Arrange my sun-bonnet, and pin it tight.

No! Baby, you must stay at home. Nay! Nay!
Boo! Boo! Suppose the gee-gee were to bite!
There! you may cry, but still at home you stay,
I cannot have you lamed. We shall be late!
Here, Phrygia, take the child and let him play,

Call in the dog, and shut the outer gate.

They go into the street.

Gods! What a crowd! How can or dare we pass? Like countless ants, no reckoning can be made Of measure or of number. Since, alas! Your father, Ptolemy, became a shade, You've kept the thieves in order, that I'll say. Up to the passer-by they used to crawl, Such tricks those scamps of Egypt used to play, Birds of a feather, ruffians, scoundrels all! Look, Gorgo dear, the chargers of the King! You're trampling on me, man! Take heed, I pray! See, the bay's rearing! What an angry thing! Eunoe, silly girl, you're in the way. That savage beast will kill his groom, I know.

I'm glad my blessed child is safe and sound!

Courage, Praxinoe, it's all right now, Gor. We're safe, they've all their proper stations found.

PRAX. I'm feeling better now. For, since my birth, Horses and flabby snakes I can't abide; I fear them more than anything on earth. But see! the mob advances like a tide! GOR. (to an old woman).

> Granny, hast been at Court? OLD W. The truth you speak.

PRAX. We want to reach it. Is there any way?

OLD W. My pretty pair, Troy fell before the Greek; Try hard, and you will always win the day.

GOR. The dame has said her say, nor tarries more.

PRAX. Women know all—how Hera married Zeus.

Gor. But see the monstrous crowd around the door!

Prax. Prodigious, Gorgo dear! But what the deuce!
Here, hold my hand, and you, Eunoe, grasp
The hand of Eutychis and keep a hold.
Now pray don't let me go, but tightly clasp,
Let's keep together, then we shall be bold.
Oh! Gorgo dear, my veil is rent in twain,
My veil of muslin! Such a dreadful tear!
For God's sake, sir, if you would fortune gain,
I pray you of my shawl to have a care.

STRANGER. I scarce can help myself; thy case is mine, But still I'm taking all the care I can.

PRAX. What a dense mob! They shove like herded swine!

STR. Courage, fair maid. PRAX. Oh! what a good kind man!

May you be blessed, sir, now and evermore. Eunoe's squeezed; keep, silly, to this side. But come, we're on the right side of the door, As the young bridegroom whispers to his bride.

Gor. Come, see these broidered marvels! Dearest, see!

How light and lovely! Surely work divine!

Athene, Goddess! Can such marvels be?
What lovely work, and what a sweet design!
Like living things, the figures stand and move,
And not like woven patterns. Clever Greeks!
But see Adonis! Ah, the gentle love!
Note the soft down upon his pretty cheeks!
How sweetly o'er his couch he seems to hang!
Beloved Adonis! Lovely e'en in death!

- STR. You women bore one with your Doric twang, Cooing like pouter-pigeons. Spare your breath.
- Gor. And who, fine sir, are you, that you should teach Us Syracusans how we should behave?

 Peloponnesian is our native speech.

 Keep your commands for one who is your slave.

 Like famed Bellerophon, we both can claim

 Descent from Corinth, and in vain you'll seek,

 Rude man, a law that casts the slightest shame

 On Dorian women who in Doric speak.
- PRAX. One master's quite enough—we want no more.

 Gor. Hush! Hear the Argive woman's tuneful voice!

 For the famed dirge the prize away she bore.

 Our souls with melody will now rejoice.

THE PSALM OF ADONIS

Hail, Aphrodite! Golden Queen whose home Lies in Idalium, and to whom belong The fanes of Golgi; thou who lov'st to roam On the steep heights of Eryx! Hear our song! From the dark waters of eternal Hell, The Hours, that move along with dainty tread, Bring him whom, living, thou did'st love so well, Beauteous Adonis rises from the dead. Slowest amongst Immortals are the Hours, But dear and welcome for the gifts they bear. Men say that, by the use of godlike powers, O Cypris, daughter of Dione fair! Alighting on sweet Berenice's breast, Thy potent will did work so mightily Grim Death was conquered at thy soft behest, And she was crowned with immortality. Hence Berenice's child, to yield thee joy, Much-worshipped Queen, who many names dost bear! Arsinoe, bright as Helena of Troy, Honours Adonis and all objects fair. From flowery lawns, from many a lofty tree, We cull ripe fruits and lay them at thy feet, Disposed in silver baskets, whilst for thee

The air with fragrant incense is replete. And all the sweetmeats that fair women make, Mingling fine flour with blossoms of the spring, And dainties that strange forms and figures take, And oil and honey sweet we hither bring. And here are built for thee the dim alcoves, Laden with tender anise, evergreen, Whilst, fluttering o'er thy head, like rosy Loves, Children, in mirthful jollity, are seen. Like half-fledged nightingales they love to perch Upon the trees and, twittering as they fly, The deep recesses of the thicket search, And every bough in quick succession try. But see the ebony and shining gold! The eagles glistening in ivory white! In their strong talons Ganymede they hold, And to the son of Cronos wing their flight. Oh! the fine coverlets of purple hue, Soft and inviting as seductive sleep! No softer wool wears the Miletian ewe, Nor e'er was shorn from off the Samian sheep. For fair Adonis one soft couch is spread— Youthful Adonis of the rosy arms— The lovely Cypris on another bed Reposes in the gladness of her charms.

The bridegroom scarce hath reached his nineteenth year,

Still on his lips the golden down doth lie, Thou lov'st him, Cypris, and he holds thee dear. Good-night we warble, and away we fly. But in the morn, when dew lies on the ground, At the white beach which spreads along the main, With locks unkempt and garments loosely bound, Our voices in shrill song we'll raise again. Thou only, dear Adonis, mortals tell, Dost roam on earth and by the Acheron, To Agamemnon no such lot befell. Not mighty Ajax, nor the eldest son Of Hecuba, slain in his manly prime, Nor Pyrrhus, who was saved, enjoys thy fate, Nor other heroes of more ancient time. Nor he who did the race of men create. Deucalion, nor those who shed their blood In fighting with the Centaurs; since the knell Of death did sound, these ne'er on earth have stood, But ever bide within the gates of Hell. Be gracious to us now, Adonis dear, And keep of future grace an ample store. We hail thy advent; in the coming year

Gor. Praxinoe! we did not think to find
A woman half so clever! Everything

We shall await thee and we shall adore.

She seems to know. What a prodigious mind! Blessed too is she who can so sweetly sing. My husband waits his dinner. Let us start. The man's all vinegar—I know him well—When waiting for his food, he's rather tart. Grace us next year, Adonis! Fare thee well!

MOSCHUS

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LOVE THE RUNAWAY

FAIR Cypris seeks her truant boy, and cries: "Can no one tell me where the child doth stray? Who brings me news shall gain an ample prize— A kiss for him who's seen my runaway! But him who brings the child himself, with more Than a mere kiss I'll gratefully requite. Easy is he to mark amidst a score Of other boys. His skin—it is not white, But glows like fire. Piercing as a dart And fiery are the glances of his eye; Soft is his speech, but wicked is his heart, His honeyed voice his evil thoughts belie. When wroth, he's all untamed and full of wile, His very sports his cruelty do show. Brazen his front, untruthful, steeped in guile, Though lovely locks fall clustering o'er his'brow. Feeble his little hands, but they can wield

A dart which reaches to the realms of Dis.

Deftly his artful spirit lies concealed Within his body's glistening nakedness. Fluttering o'er all mankind with bird-like wing, He lights, and in their inmost hearts he lies. His shaft stands ever ready on the string, That shaft so tiny reaches to the skies. A golden quiver on his back he'll bear, And bitter arrows—I have felt their smart! But most of all his tools, the torch beware, With which he e'en inflames the Sun-God's heart. No mercy, when he's caught, should'st thou display, But bind the truant tight with many a thong. Neglect his tears, or he will slip away, Despite his laughter, drag the child along. The kisses from his poisoned lips deceive, Fly, stranger, if to kiss thee he desire! And should he say: 'Take these, my arms receive,'

Reject those treacherous gifts, baptized with fire."

THE LAMENT FOR BION

Da iii

Wail, wail for Bion, every woodland dell!
Ye Dorian waters, raise your joyless song!
Ye verdant groves, repeat the mournful knell,
And flowers, in sadness clustering, join the throng!
Let pale anemones, to show their grief,
And rich-hued roses, flush a deeper red,
Let Hyacinthus, on his pictured leaf,
Enhance his tale of woe to mourn the dead.
Ye nightingales, that midst the leaves lament,
Warble his death to gushing Arethuse.
Bion is dead, and song itself is spent,
Whilst stricken lies the tuneful Dorian Muse.

Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.

And ye, Strymonian swans, the tidings bring
To Thracian nymphs and to Oeagrian maids,
Chant with such voice as he was wont to sing,
Say that our Dorian Orpheus joins the shades.
No more his herd will hear him as he trills,

They listen for his joyous note in vain,
Forgetful of his native glades and hills,
By Pluto's side he chants a sad refrain.
Dumb are the mountains, and the echoing rocks
No jocund answer to his carol yield,
Wandering in aimless grief, his helpless flocks
Reject the proffered pasture of the field.

Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.

Apollo's self, O Bion! o'er thy bier, Bewails thy fate, whilst Fauns in sable dress Weep for the minstrelsy they held so dear, And Satyrs pine in sorrowful distress. The fountain Nymphs, in valley and on fell, Weep floods of tears, where once they did rejoice, Echo awaits the sound she loved so well, And mourns the silence of her mimic voice. Trees cast their fruit, flowers no longer thrive, The teeming udder yields fair milk no more, Since thy sweet song has ceased, within the hive Responsive bees neglect their honeyed store. Less mourned the dolphin on the billowy deep, Less sad a note, O Philomel! was thine, Less Procne grieved when skimming from the steep, And less did Halcyon for her mate repine. Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.

Less sadly by the dancing grey sea-wave The sea-gull mourned. Less bitter tears were shed Over the beauteous son of Morning's grave Than o'er our Dorian songster, who is dead. 'The swallow and the sweet-tongued nightingale, To whom he taught the secret of his art, Bemoan his fate. The doves in answer wail: "Alas! we too are smitten to the heart." O thrice-desired Bion! Who can hold The pipe wherewith thou madest melody? What mortal lip shall, all unwisely bold, Be pressed to reeds which none might touch but thee? Thy voice still lingers, and thy breath is near, Echo still feeds on music that is thine, If to great Pan himself the pipe we bear, To rival thee he will perchance decline. Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.

Fair Galatea on the beach would stray,
And feast her ears, whilst wandering by thy side,
On harmony unlike that savage lay
With which the Cyclops wooed her as his bride.
Far other love did the bright maiden crave,
She gazed on thee, and not upon the brine,
Grief-stricken, she forgets the curling wave,
But still she tends thy now deserted kine.

Dead is the Muse; the Loves, bereft of bliss, Hover around thy tomb in fruitless woe. Dearer thou wert to Cypris than the kiss Which on her dying mate she did bestow. Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.

Meles, most musical of streams, to thee A second bitter sorrow Time doth bear, That sweetest votary of Calliope, Great Homer, thou did'st mourn with many a tear. Men say that goodly son thou did'st lament, Thy tears were mingled with the salt sea-spray Yet now, before one bitter grief is spent, With a fresh sorrow thou dost waste away. One songster drank from the Pierian Spring, The other from the Arethusan fount, One of thy daughter, Tyndarus, did sing, Achilles' mighty feats did he recount; He told of Menelaus, and of Troy, Of deeds of daring, and of war's alarms; In tears and blood the other found no joy, He sang of Pan, of herds, and rural charms. Pipes would he fashion, and, at his behest, The foaming milk gushed free into the bowl; He woke, whilst clasping Love unto his breast, Thy passion, Aphrodite, in the soul.

Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.

All towns and cities join the mournful cry, Less sorrowed Ascra over Hesiod's death. Boeotia's forests heaved a gentler sigh When mighty Pindar drew his parting breath. Less was Alcaeus mourned, the tuneful son Of pleasant Lesbos, in his native land, Less keen a wail, beloved Anacreon, Arose for thee along the Teian strand. Not o'er Archilochus, but o'er thy grave, Does sea-girt Paros chant a funeral strain, Whilst Mitylene, by the Aegean wave, Forgets that Sappho ne'er will sing again.1 To others thou did'st give thy wealth; to me, Heir to the Doric Muse thou did'st impart, Thou hast bequeathed the gift of minstrelsy, This dirge betrays the sorrow of my heart. Begin, Sicilian Muses, your lament.

Ah me! The mallows, anise, and each flower That withers at the blast of winter's breath, Await the vernal, renovating hour, And joyously awake from feigned death.

¹ Six lines, which are given by Kiessling, and by Ahrens (Leipsic, 1855), but which are of doubtful authenticity, are here omitted.

But men, the great, the mighty, and the wise, Die and descend into the hollow tomb, They sleep the sleep from which none e'er can rise, And silently endure their endless doom. For ever hushed in silence thou dost lie, Whilst wayward Nymphs decree in judgment harsh That the unenvied frog eternally Shall croak discordance from the swampy marsh. O Bion! Thou did'st drain the poisoned bowl, Why were thy honeyed lips no antidote? Surely he had no music in his soul Who, all unmoved, could hearken to thy note! Justice awaits him, but I still must tell My tale of sorrow, and my grief unfold. Would that I could descend to gloomy Hell, As Orpheus and Alcides did of old! If to the dwelling of the awful King Of that dread region I might haply stray— Perchance it is thy lot for him to sing— Then would I listen to thy dulcet lay. Nay! Sing again some old Sicilian strain, Such as Persephone was wont to hear, When, in her girlhood's home by Aetna's main, The Dorian music struck upon her ear. Not unrewarded will thy music be,

Bethink thee of what Orpheus did require,

He craved his beauteous bride, Eurydice,
And earned the boon with his melodious lyre.
Thus, sweetest Bion, whom we now bewail,
Again thy native land thou may'st rejoice;
And, if my humble song could aught avail,
In Pluto's presence I would raise my voice.

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